

UTAH MINUTEMAN

UTAH NATIONAL GUARD JOINT MAGAZINE

Volume III, Number 1

Spring 2004

Utah National Guard



Persian/Farsi Linguists
from the 142nd MI Bn
serving in Iraq

**Utah National Guard
members continue to make
significant contributions to
our Nation's
“War on Terrorism”**

Members of
the 130th EIS
in Iraq





Utah Minuteman

Connecting the Pieces *Spring 2004*

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TAG's Corner

More American service men and women are now underway in troop transfers than at any time since World War II. This has affected the Utah National Guard in a profound way that has enormous implications for our future.

As we as an organization prepare to welcome home units, which have been deployed for over a year, we are just finishing our work in mobilizing new units for Operation Iraq Freedom II and Operation Enduring Freedom III. The pace has been unrelenting and has required the best efforts of all associated with the mobilizations. I am gratified by the work you all have done: the mobilized soldiers, their families, and the new Joint Force Headquarters.

In the past few days, the 116th Engineer Company and the 115th Engineer Group have arrived in the Middle East. The 1st Battalion, 211th Aviation Regiment is in the final stages of deploying to the CENTCOM Area of Responsibility (AOR) from Fort Carson, Colorado.

Today, the 1457th Engineer Battalion, the 142nd MI Battalion, the 109th Air Control Squadron, and the 1st Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group continue their superb effort in the CENTCOM AOR.

Two weeks ago, we welcomed home the 489th Engineer Detachment in a great welcome home at the Salt Lake Air Base when the soldiers were brought home by the great efforts of the 151st Air-Refueling Wing. It was a tremendous and well deserved celebration for the 489th.

Today, the 141st MI Battalion is due to arrive at Fort Carson from the Middle East enroute to home station.



photo by State Staff

Major General Brian L. Tarbet, The Adjutant General of Utah

The unit has been in the thick of it and has done remarkable work.

Utah National Guard soldiers and airmen have set an enviable standard of excellence and have distinguished themselves by their contribution to the war fight. The sacrifices they and their families have made are considerable and worthy of the thanks of all the citizens of the state.

I recently had the opportunity to visit soldiers and airmen in Qatar, Afghanistan and Ecuador where they were doing their

duty with distinction and enthusiasm. I am proud of each individual and of the great effort they are giving. They are simply indispensable in the Global War on Terrorism.

Our fellow soldiers and airmen are in dangerous and threatening circumstances throughout the world. We need to keep them uppermost in our thoughts and prayers and do all we can to support them and their families. In this historic time of effort by the Guard, everyone can take great pride in their accomplishments.

Top Army Enlisted Comments



photo by State Staff

Dell K. Smith, Command Sergeant Major of the Utah Army National Guard

The past couple of years since September 11th have been a time of redefining the roles and mission of Utah National Guard soldiers and airmen. It has been a demanding time for everyone involved. We have answered the call every time we have been called upon and have performed our missions and assignments with distinction. It has been rewarding and impressive to visit with soldiers and airmen and to see the results of their service. There is no doubt in my mind that we have dedicated service members who are committed to the Guard and their country.

We have recently deployed new units who are serving with distinction: the 1st Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group in Afghanistan; the 115th Engineer Group and the 116th Engineer Company, both currently in the process of deployment to the Middle East; the 1st Battalion, 211th Aviation Group at Fort Carson, Colorado awaiting deployment overseas; and the 109th Air Control Squadron, currently serving in Iraq. We have a great group of soldiers and airmen serving our country with pride and distinction.

We look forward, in the next few months, to the return of the 142nd Military Intelligence Battalion and the 1457th Engineer Battalion; both have been deployed for over a year in Iraq. There was a great welcome home a short while ago when the 489th Engineer Detachment returned from a one-year deployment to Kuwait.

I also want to thank a great group of soldiers assigned to the Joint Forces Headquarters, Medical Command and many other units who have supported the deployments and redeployments with many hours of dedication and hard work to insure that our soldiers and families are well cared for.

I would like to congratulate 1st Sgt. Eric Skog, Company D, 1st Battalion 211th Aviation Regiment, who was selected as 1st Sgt. of the Year 2003; Sgt. 1st Class Robert Conner, 116th Engineer Company who was selected as NCO of the Year 2003; and Sgt. Jordan Grimstead, 116th Engineer Company, who was selected as Soldier of the Year 2003. All three soldiers are currently deployed and will not be able to represent the state at the 5th Army Boards. However, Staff Sgt. John Hicks of HHB, I Corps Artillery and Spc. Steven Ross, HHB, 2nd Battalion 222nd Field Artillery will represent the state and compete at the 5th Army Boards for Soldier and NCO of the Year. My thanks and congratulations go to these five soldiers for their hard work and dedication.

Again, let me express my thanks to the members of the Utah National Guard for their dedicated service, and a very special thanks to the families of our deployed soldiers and airmen for their sacrifice. We appreciate you !

You are America's Best – Never Forget it!

Chief Master Sgt. Andrew L. Ocaña Utah
Air National Guard
Command Chief Master Sergeant

I am continually impressed with the quality and enthusiasm of the Air National Guard's enlisted force. If anyone should tell you there is something wrong with America's young people--point to our enlisted members as an example of what's right with America. What an incredible opportunity I've had to be in this position since being selected as the Command Chief. I have witnessed first hand what our men and women of the Utah Air Guard are capable of. Our members take pride in their work. I see nothing but tremendous advances and achievements ahead on the horizon.

We've been blessed to see unit members, family members and friends return safe and sound from their duties overseas as part of our world-wide contingencies. In our joy to see these folks come home, let's take a moment to remember those who are not home and may not be for quite some time.

Tens of thousands of men and women across the United States in the Guard have been called to active duty for extended periods of time. These individuals are serving all over the world, often working side by side with active-duty military forces and providing one-of-a-kind specialties and capabilities.

What is particularly special about these heroes is the challenges they and their families face. When our Guard members are activated, they step away from their civilian jobs with their pay and benefits to step into the military pay and benefits system. We do not have a unit or base that is there to support our families like the active duty Air Force has. Many times, our families must rely on friends and family for help. The separation of a spouse and parent can create even more stress than the financial hardships deployments cause. Most of our Guard members live in communities where neighbors may not be familiar with the challenges of extended military deployments.

Employers should also be commended during these hard times. They allow Guard

members to leave their jobs at a moment's notice. Then these employers must be ready to immediately reinstate them when they are released from active duty weeks, months, even years later. Imagine if you were a business owner and your best workers suddenly leave and you can only hire temporary replacements. Imagine the incredible drain on your business services and morale.



Some very special employers go well beyond the requirements of the law. Some actually make up the difference between employees' military pay and what they earned in their civilian jobs. Some also make special efforts to take care of the families of the deployed Guard members.

We have Airmen throughout the world, and we go about our business performing important missions. I think we can all be proud, and we all know what our young men and women are capable of. The praise goes to the Airman basic and on up to our chiefs and officers who have deployed. That is what is very impressive; the level of responsibility our members are operating at today. How can you not be proud of that? We wear our uniform proudly. We're expected to do what our country asks us to do and that's called service. When we raised

our hands and swore to defend our country, our service commitment became a responsibility we all share. As ugly as war is, it's part of what we do and why we wear the uniform.

Along with this responsibility comes longer deployments and time away from families. With many of our members married, taking care of families takes on a whole different meaning, and I appreciate what our first sergeants, commanders and supervisors are doing on a daily basis. It never ceases to amaze me how the members of our units step up and help to accomplish the mission.

My job has been one of the most rewarding things I have ever done in my life. When I accepted the duties of this position it initially was all about learning what needed to be done. The command chief position is a traditional Guardsman slot, but I am finding out that more time has to be allotted than drill weekends.

Again, let me thank each and every airman for your service and commitment to this organization. I'm constantly proud of the contributions of the enlisted force. I'm proud to represent them and be their voice. Let me leave you with a quote from the Secretary of the Air Force, James G. Roche, when he spoke at the Senior Leadership Conference in Maryland last December. He spoke about transformation and how it was foremost as the key idea to be taken back to our units. It is what we should all be striving for in the Air National Guard.

"We are now engaged in a global war with an elusive and resilient enemy who does not employ traditional means of warfare. These new realities underscore the absolute necessity to adapt our force. As airmen, I ask you to treat "transformation" as a mindset rather than a process. It is a state of mind that is willing to explore adaptations of existing and new systems, doctrines, and organizations — one that will allow us to be truly relevant in the era in which we find ourselves."

Let me finish by stating the obvious, but we should never tire of hearing it. Stay focused, disciplined, vigilant, and safe. Be ready. You are America's best – never forget it!

Utah Becomes A Purple State

By Spc. Scott Faddis, 128th MPAD

While purple is typically associated with royalty, in recent years the color has also come to represent military operations involving more than one military service. Military members refer to such operations as “purple” because this color is created when combining the green, blue, white, and red colors of the flags of the Army, Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps.

Historically, the Utah National Guard has maintained separate headquarters elements for the Army and Air National Guard under command of the Adjutant General and the Governor. However, on October 1, 2003, Utah became a “purple” state by combining the two to form the Joint Forces Headquarters-Utah (JFHQ-UT), a joint headquarters element comprised of both Army and Air Guard leadership.

The joining of the two Utah Guard headquarters culminated a process started by The Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Brian Tarbet when he assumed command in October 2000. Tarbet began the transformation to a joint staff at that time because of his positive experiences with joint-service operations in his career as a Military Intelligence (MI) officer.

“I knew right from the get-go that I wanted to do [a joint command]. In the MI we worked closely with the other services and there was a lot of synergy,” said Tarbet.

Tarbet, however, was not the only military mind thinking that more unity between the services was best for the National Guard. In a briefing on May 16, 2003, Chief of the National Guard Bureau, Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum, announced plans to combine all of the

state Army and Air National Guard headquarters by October 2004.

In keeping with those plans, Tarbet appointed Air Force Brig. Gen. Ralph Dewsnap Commander of the Joint Forces Headquarters. Dewsnap is glad to see the steps that Utah has taken to create a Joint Forces command.

“We have had a joint staff since Maj. Gen. Tarbet came into command as The Adjutant General, but we were doing it



Logo is still being developed

as an additional duty,” said Dewsnap. “[The new directive from National Guard Bureau] allows us to do away with additional duty assignments and create a permanent command structure.

“The Joint Forces Headquarters has formalized what our Adjutant General has been trying to do informally. Making the formal command will enable things to go smoother in the future” Dewsnap added.

Smoother operations under the Joint Forces Headquarters concept are possible because of its ability to assimilate both active duty as well as reserve component units from all the services. This arrangement would have been ideal for military support provided to the 2002 Winter Olympic Games in Salt Lake City. At that time, however,

circumstances required the creation of a separate joint task force to oversee the military support provided to the Games. Had the Winter Olympics been held two years later, the Utah Joint Forces Headquarters would have overseen Olympic military support in addition to commanding the traditional activities of the National Guard, as well as any other military units and personnel brought in to support the Games.

Dewsnap acknowledges that the Joint Forces Headquarters is not only an organizational change but also a cultural one. “It requires people to rethink. We are going to operate in a joint environment with more purple, to facilitate operations of the green and blue.”

One example of a joint operation currently in the planning stages at the Joint Forces Headquarters is Global Patriot ‘04, scheduled for June 2004. Brig. Gen. Stanley Gordon, Army Commander of Troops and his Army staff are working closely with Col. Brent Winget and his Air Force staff to prepare for and carry out this operation.

To sum up the progress of the Utah Guard thus far in making these organizational changes, Dewsnap observed, “The challenges that could have existed—and by ‘challenges’ I mean obstacles—haven’t materialized because of the cooperative attitudes of the people involved.”

This unified effort at the senior level of the Utah Army and Air National Guard paints an optimistic picture of a promising future and will make Utah a model to follow in effective integration of the missions of the Army and Air National Guard.

Soldier Center Opens at Camp Williams

Story and photos by Spc. Scott Faddis,
128th MPAD

The soldiers visiting and working at Camp Williams will now have another place to relax. The new Soldier Center, Building 622, was officially opened as a place for soldiers to go and blow off steam.

The new Soldier Center fills a long time need at Camp Williams. There are not many entertainment options for soldiers at Camp Williams because it is primarily a National Guard Base. There are typically "200-300 students on the ground each week" at the 640th Regiment (RTI) according to Command Sgt. Maj. Craig Hone, the 640th Regional Training Command Sgt. Maj. These soldiers come from Arizona, California, Colorado, Washington, Oregon, Nevada, Montana, Utah, North Dakota, South Dakota, Idaho, Alaska, Hawaii, and Guam.

The center was built with the 640th RTI soldiers in mind, as well as the National Guard soldiers who will be at



Spc. Jennifer Kelley, Spc. Darrell Wilson and Spc. Scott Campbell cut the ribbon to open the new soldier center, with Maj. Gen. Tarbet, Brig. Gen. Gordon and Command Sgt. Maj. Smith looking on

Camp Williams over their weekend drills and annual trainings. The center will also be available to the full-time staff working at Camp Williams.

"The Soldier Center was built to give the soldiers at Camp Williams a place where they can go to relax and watch TV and play some games, other than the NCO club or the barracks," said Command Sgt. Maj. Dell Smith, State Command Sgt. Maj.

The center has separated areas for the soldiers to watch TV, play X-BOX, read and study, play board games, check their e-mails, and make phone calls. The phones will be a great improvement because "most of the phones around Camp are outside," said Smith. The center has been a work in progress over the last year. Specialist Jennifer Kelley, Administrative Assistant to the

State Command Sgt. Maj., ended up doing much of the leg work for this project. According to Kelley, the building needed to have a lot of work to turn it into the soldier center today. "The building needed walls built, partitions installed, and new carpet. The building has a keypad to give access to sgt. majors throughout the state," said Kelley.

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) donated a lot of the products that will be used in the center. "AAFES donated a JVC TV and a nice sound system as well as giving us good deals on everything we had to buy," said Kelley.

"It will be a great place for soldiers to go. Everything in it is very nice and very comfortable," said Smith. "I hope that soldiers use the heck out of it."



The soldier center offers a TV room, a room for playing XBOX, a board game room (pictured above), computers and a place for soldiers to read.

116th Engineer Company (CSE) Deploys to Iraq

By 2nd Lt. Randy Miller, 116th Engr. Co.



116th personnel posing for a unit photo at Fort Carson, Colorado, prior to deployment to Iraq

The 116th Engineer Company (CSE) received its call to duty when it was alerted for service in January 2003 as part of the first phase of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Due to failing negotiations with Turkey, the 116th Engineer Company was not allowed into Turkey as an aid to the invading forces into the north of Iraq. At that time the 116th's mobilization date was pushed back indefinitely. In late April 2003, the unit was dropped from alert status, and no deployment was anticipated in the foreseeable future. Just before Thanksgiving of 2003, the 116th received their second call to duty as they were alerted for deployment as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom Phase II. No failing negotiations would stop them from serving their country this time.

The Company went on Utah State orders on December 1, 2003, as the unit busied itself with logistics, maintenance, medical readiness, and

personnel strength management for the upcoming deployment. Members of the 116th would like to give an extra big "HOOAH" to the many units who

provided outstanding training and support throughout the initial phase of their deployment, along with those units that provided "filler" soldiers from their ranks to fill ours. Their unique perspectives and solid discipline have enabled the company to become an efficient and highly motivated group of outstanding soldiers who are ready to meet any mission.

The unit received its federal orders on December 18, 2003, and was scheduled for departure for Fort Carson, Colorado on January 6, 2004. The 116th arrived in Colorado with 160 personnel ready for mobilization training. The training received in Utah and at Fort Carson was specifically designed to focus on the skills needed to meet unit mission requirements in Fort Carson, as well as Iraq. The training received focused on the tasks needed for survival, and mission



116th conducting convoy operations at Ft. Carson, Colorado

accomplishment in Iraq. Tasks such as weapons qualification, common task training, and convoy operations were trained extensively, along with other important subjects.

The two-day convoy operation event hosted by the 1 / 145th FA and the 2/91st TSB at Camp Red Devil in Fort Carson, Colorado gave the 116th soldiers opportunities to interact with opposition forces, villagers, riot control situations, and essential convoy operations. The unit also pulled security for two gates, completed some road grading for the local villages, and received realistic casualty treatment and evacuation training. One of the highlights of the exercise was a company mission to extract a villager known to be sympathetic to coalition forces from a hostile village. Earlier that day he had facilitated the escape of two American prisoners and helped them cross friendly lines. The S-2 was anxious to look after his safety and glean whatever intelligence they could from the man. Camp Red Devil was a huge success in exposing the 116th soldiers to possible situations they could



Photo provided by 116th Engr. Co.

Members of the 116th Engr. Co. advanced party departing Kuwait for Iraq to start the process of integrating with their active component Bn.

encounter in Iraq. From Camp Red Devil, the unit convoyed to another bivouac site for three-days of convoy operations and IED training including a day of live-fire convoy operations. An outstanding cadre from the armor regiment conducted the training on Bradley tables.

With the necessary requirements and training at Fort Carson successfully completed, the company departed for the Middle East. After a few days in Kuwait, an advanced party departed for Iraq on February 17, 2004, to start the process of integrating with our active component battalion. The advanced party received a warm welcome from the battalion, which was a promising sign for the rest of the 116th that was to follow shortly after. The Battalion Sergeant Major paid us a visit on our first morning, and was intent on making sure we were fully integrated as a company in the battalion. "As far as I'm concerned, y'all (116th) are 'Never Daunted' soldiers from here on out," said Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Thomas of the 84th Engineer Battalion, out of Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

We fully intend to uphold that statement as we continue to represent and serve our country and state as "The Mighty 116th Engineer Company of the Utah Army National Guard. ESSAYONS!"



Photo provided by 116th Engr. Co.

116th temporary home in Kuwait prior to moving to Iraq

The Utah Air National Guard Gets New Leadership



U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Keith J. Campbell

Maj. Gen. Tarbet passes the Utah ANG flag to Col. Winget, symbolizing the change of command of the Utah Air National Guard

by Staff Sgt. Wayne L. Lee

November 1, 2003, was a historic day for the Utah Air National Guard. The Utah ANG Commander, Brig. Gen. Larry V. Lunt, transferred command of the 151st Air Refueling Wing from Col. Brent E. Winget to Col. Larry T. Johnson.

Additionally, The Adjutant General of Utah, Maj. Gen. Brian L. Tarbet, transferred command of the Utah ANG from Brig. Gen. Lunt to Col. Winget.

Following the change of command ceremony, Lunt retired concluding 36 years of service. During the change of command ceremony, Lunt said, "I enjoyed wearing the uniform." He also

added he has seen real moral courage since 9-11 and he has seen leaders make hard decisions.

As he addressed the assembly, Lunt summed up his 36 years of service with the following words of encouragement and wisdom. "If you have integrity, nothing else matters. Service before self; we love what we serve, and serve what we love. Active service begins with a sense of duty and ends with feelings of love. Thus begins a marvelous, wonderful upward spiral of service and love, love and service."

Among the invited guests and airmen in the formation, were five of the

original members when the Utah ANG was formed in 1946. The original retired members present were Brig. Gen. Roland R. Wright, Col. Albert Mulder Jr., Lt. Col. Allen D. Young, Senior Master Sgt. William F. Park and Senior Master Sgt. Max L. Richards.

The Air National Guard begins a new chapter with the new leadership in place.

Tarbet, in his closing remarks, concluded with this charge, "Get ready for the future. These outstanding leaders will prepare the Air National Guard. We have done much but we have much more to do."

Commander & Command Pilot Retires

by Tech. Sgt. Sterling S. Poulson

On approach to Salt Lake City International Airport, sitting in the co-pilot's seat of a Utah Air National Guard KC-97 commanded by Capt. John Hafen, Capt. Larry Lunt realized that the trouble was serious. A fuel leak had developed in the belly of the plane, and steps had to be taken to maintain safety.

"We had to cut power to any electrical equipment near the leak," said Lunt. With only manual landing gear capability, no flaps and most important, radios in the "off" position to reduce the danger of fire, the final approach was committed. Without communication, palms were a little sweaty, but the landing was safely executed. This was just one of over 1950 flying hours flown by retiring command pilot Brig. Gen. Larry V. Lunt during his 36 years of military service.

From 1969-1972, Lunt made many long and often dangerous trips through all types of weather flying at an altitude of around 9,500 ft. in a C-124 to the Vietnam Theater. The route was from Travis AFB, California, to Hickham, Hawaii, Wake Island, Guam, and the



U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Keith J. Campbell

Mrs. Susan Lunt receives a certificate from Maj. Gen. Brian Tarbet for her support to Brig. Gen. Lunt during his long, distinguished career.

final jumping off point, the Philippines. The mission was to transport cargo consisting of trucks, people and other supplies on a round-trip journey, which took ten days.

His mission soon changed from transporting personnel to helping them through legal problems, serving as the

commanders and the working force, the challenges can be just as exciting and rewarding as flying a plane," said Lunt. "Looking back, I can honestly say that I had no negative experiences with the people I worked with. Everyone has always been courteous and eager to please."

On October 26, 2003 Lunt ended his military service. His retirement was made official on November 1. The Adjutant General relieved Lunt of his official duties as Commander of the Utah ANG Base, culminating a productive and rewarding career. Lunt emphasized his human side saying, "At the end of the day, it's the relationships you develop with people that brings the greatest rewards."



Brig. Gen. Lunt displays the model T-38 that was presented to him at his retirement.

U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Brad Leiter

Judge Advocate for 10 years. After a few assignments as a liaison officer with the Air Force Reserves, the General returned to the Utah ANG in October 1997 as Assistant Adjutant General and Commander of the Utah ANG.

"Dealing with unit

489th (Utility) Detachment Home From Kuwait

*Story and Photos By Spc. Scott Faddis,
128th MPAD*

It was an emotional moment. Fifty-two soldiers walked down the air-stairs of a Utah Air National Guard KC-135 onto a runway crowded with welcome-home banners, balloons, and cheering friends and family. After a year in Kuwait, the 489th Engineer Detachment (Utility) came home to Utah on Feb. 6, 2003.

More than 300 people gathered at the Salt Lake Air Base to celebrate the engineers' homecoming.

Family and friends were joined by Utah Gov. Olene Walker, U.S. Sen. Orrin Hatch, and several members of



The 52 soldiers walk down the air stairs to a reception of over 300 of their friends and family members, as well as Gov. Olene Walker and Sen. Orrin Hatch.



Leneige Gough hugging her husband Spc. Ephraim Gough. The two had to plan their wedding in under 30 hours.

the Utah National Guard, including Maj. Gen. Brian Tarbet, the State Adjutant General. In addition to the welcome-home crowd, a myriad of media were on hand to capture the moment in print and on television.

The detachment, commanded by Capt. Andy Adamson, was mobilized in December 2002 and deployed shortly after Christmas of that year. After a short stay at Fort Carson, Colorado, the unit deployed to Camp Doha, the headquarters for land forces in Iraq located near Kuwait City.

Once mobilized, life changed quickly as the members of the 489th transitioned from citizens to soldiers.

One family that changed the quickest was the Gough family. Specialist Ephraim and Leneige Gough had planned to wed in February. Once Ephraim received his mobilization order,

time for planning the wedding was condensed from 60 days to 30 hours. They were married so fast that they couldn't possibly get everything together.

Leneige had already bought her dress but not the accessories. "I had to walk down the stairs in my bare feet," she said.

The Goughs were married only a month before he spent the next year of their marriage—and their first anniversary—in Kuwait. Now that he has returned, they plan to move into their first home and start their lives together in earnest.

Leniege did not wait out the return of her soldier alone. The 489th is made up of people from 33 different communities in Utah and each felt the absence of their citizen-soldiers serving their country overseas.



Eight football players from Timpanogos High School came to see their coach Sgt. Frank Bramall come home.

The city of Orem in particular was left with a noticeable void. Before the mobilization, Orem's Timpanogos High School had a number-one-ranked football program. That was before



Pvt. Thomas Harris waiting at the air base for his dad to arrive.

coach Frank Bramall became Sgt. Bramall full-time.

"It's been a tough year. We've missed him a lot," said one of the eight football players waiting at the air base for their coach. "We had the potential to take state, but without him we couldn't."

The same football team who desperately missed their coach did their best to help his wife. "All summer long I had a football player mowing my lawn. They have been great. Not only the football team, but also the administration of the high school," said Monica Bramall.

Luckily for Coach Bramall, football season doesn't start for a few months—plenty of time to prepare his team to be tough competitors next season. For now, however, Monica plans on just enjoying time together with her husband at home. Karlie, their 8-year-old daughter, is excited to have her dad home for her birthday next week.

For Staff Sgt. Kirk Harris, the year in Kuwait was his second deployment to the Persian Gulf. The first time around, Harris was deployed in support of Operation Desert Storm. A long time Guard member, Harris maintains a strong sense of patriotism that he has passed down to his son.

Private Thomas Harris joined the Utah National Guard last year after his dad was mobilized for Operation Iraqi Freedom. The fact that his dad was sent to Kuwait only made his convictions stronger.

"I've wanted to join for a long time," said Harris. He was scheduled to leave for basic training in June but has not been able to go because of administrative problems. For him, the wait has been frustrating.

Teresa, the wife of Kirk and mother of Thomas, has a different outlook on why her son has not been able to go to basic training.

"I needed him home. It's been nice to have a man around the house," said an emotional Teresa. "He's just got to be patient. I get one home and then send the other one off."

During their year-long deployment, the 489th Engineers were indispensable at Camp Doha. The Detachment, composed of electricians, plumbers, carpenters and appliance repairmen, kept busy maintaining, repairing, and upgrading facilities at the camp whose population swelled to over 10,000 at times.

Because of their highly specialized skills, the engineers were assigned a multitude of projects including the construction of a 3,500 square foot stage for the largest USO concert in history.



Everytime that a plane flies by two year-old Olivia Larsen asks her mom, "Daddy?"

Olivia is waiting for her dad, Sgt. Steve Larsen, to return home after being in Kuwait for the last year.

141st Returns Home to Families and Snow

By Spc. Scott Faddis and Spc. Jody Metzger, 128th MPAD

Members of Utah's 141st Military Intelligence Battalion returned home February 28, 2004, to two things absent during their year in Iraq-- their families and a lot of snow. The troops flew home, through a snowstorm, aboard three Utah Air National Guard KC-135 refueling tankers to their families waiting on an icy tarmac.

The Utah Air National Guard gave the soldiers a ride from Fort Carson, Colo., as part of their unit-training mission. The arrival of the 113 soldiers was delayed for an hour because of snowstorms in Utah and Colorado. Despite the weather, the enthusiasm of the 800 family and friends never dimmed.



US Army photo by Spc. Scott Faddis

The Utah National Guard KC-135 that landed first excited the 800 plus crowd by displaying the national colors.

Gov. Olene Walker, Sen. Orrin Hatch and Sen. Robert Bennett joined the families in welcoming home the troops.

Hatch spent time talking to the families while waiting for the soldiers to arrive. "Any time our people come home from overseas everyone is happy about it. They serve, not only our country, but they serve the world and because this is a very, very important set of operations," said Hatch. "These folks have really made a difference."

The total of 136 soldiers (23 had returned home already) were an integral part of intelligence operations that occurred from the beginning of the war, to when the Army located Uday and Qusay Hussein, until they returned home. The primary focus of the 141st was to gather information that was useful in protecting their fellow soldiers in Iraq.

The unit was deployed in teams throughout Iraq. They supported other units at every echelon and every location in the theater. Twelve members were attached to an operation center that served as a clearinghouse for all intelligence gathered in the theater.



US Army photo by Spc. Scott Faddis

Sen. Bob Bennett, Gov. Olene Walker, Sen. Orrin Hatch, Mr. Myran Walker and Col. Brent Winget all await the arrival of the KC-135 carrying the troops.

Photo provided by 141 Mi Bn.



1st Lt. John Darrington poses with local Iraqi children. Darrington was beloved by the troops under his command because of his unrelenting commitment to their safety. While in Iraq, he acquired steel, and welded it to their vehicles to make them safer for his unit.

Another part of the unit was divided into four-man human intelligence teams that were attached to active-duty teams and went into the towns gathering



Spc. Zachary Sibio kisses his wife Anna after coming off the airplane.

US Army photo by Spc. Scott Faddis

year of my life to help someone else gain the freedom that I enjoy.”

1st Lt. John Darrington worked beside Odd while in Iraq. Because of their mission, they had a lot of contact with the children in Iraq. Darrington said, “The kids are great; it breaks your

“Whenever I am in town I try to get out to greet them, because they are all heroes to me,” said Sen. Hatch.

heart every time you see them. Some were naked with no shoes. In the middle of winter it is cold over there.”

Darrington emphasized the importance of the work with the local community, especially the children. “I think the impression we leave with them now is going to make the next generation either hate or respect the United States.”

Chief Warrent Officer Paul Holton, better known as Chief Wiggles, worked

intelligence from the local community. Each soldier in the unit has a different story to tell.

1st Sgt. David Odd spent his time in Iraq going into the local community on a daily basis. He had as much contact with the everyday local Iraqi people as anyone. He said, “I feel proud to have helped the Iraqi people gain freedom. I don’t mind sacrificing a

with “Operation Give” to distribute toys to Iraqi children. He became internationally known for his work with the children of Iraq.



US Army photo by Spc. Scott Faddis

Chief Warrent Officer Paul Holton “Chief Wiggles” hugs his wife Keeyon after serving in Iraq for the past year.

Sgt. Spencer Willardson also gained national attention after the capture of Saddam Hussein. Willardson coined the phrase, “It looks like we found Saddam Hussein’s love shack.” That statement was picked up by news organizations and ran worldwide.

Maj. Gen. Brain Tarbet, the Utah Adjutant General, recognized the contributions of the returning soldiers. “They’ve been through the thick and thin of it for over 12 months and performed extraordinarily well in dangerous and difficult conditions. We, along with the families, are thrilled to have them home,” he said.

109th ACS Deploys Members to Iraq

by Master Sgt. Kevin Larsen

The 109th Air Control Squadron, commanded by Lt. Col. Kenneth Gammon, deployed approximately 60 members to Iraq on November 12, 2003, in support of the global war on terrorism and more specifically in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The 109th ACS will be overseas for approximately seven months. Members of the unit are deployed to sites in Baghdad and Kirkuk. Their responsibilities while deployed will be to conduct aircraft control, surveillance and to identify possible threats. The job is very similar to that of AWACS; however, the 109th is not as limited by flight times and can run on a 24-hour basis much easier.

The 109th is no stranger to being activated. For most, including the unit's 1st Sgt., Senior Master Sgt. Jeff Stubbs, this is the third activation in the last five years.

This deployment comes not too long after the unit served 11 months under Operation Noble Eagle during the 9-11 crisis, in which they provided radar coverage for the Western United States and coverage for the 2002 Winter Olympic Games.

Prior to Operation Noble Eagle, sev-



U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Burke Baker

Tech. Sgt. James Ahlstrom, 109th ACS, takes some time with his son Brandon, shortly before deploying.

eral members were activated and spent the millennium New Year in Kuwait.

This activation comes at a time of year in which there are many holidays. Many of the members celebrated their holiday season early. Most members deploying appeared to have a positive attitude toward the deployment considering the scenario in which they are involved.

Stubbs said, "There has not been a single troop, that has not leaned forward and said let's go. These guys are great."

Stubbs also recognized that many of the family members left behind do not feel the same; however, the job has to be done and everyone is doing their part. Because of previous activations the 109th has experienced, most members involved this time are better prepared.

Gammon stated he expected a pretty big hit on retention after the Noble Eagle mobilization; however, the loss was not great. When asked if there was an anticipated increase in people getting out of the Guard because of the closeness in proximity of this activation and Operation Noble Eagle, Gammon said, "There are too many variables at this point to really know; I am pleased with the morale of the people going in." He also stated that he would like to thank everyone who helped with their deployment.



U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Burke Baker

Members of the 109th ACS board a chartered Boeing 777 aircraft enroute to the Middle East.

109th ACS Assumes Duties in Kirkuk

By Tech. Sgt. James M. Dekanich

The 109th Air Control Squadron departed Utah at 6:00 a.m. on Nov. 12, 2003, to take over a deployed radar site in Kirkuk, Iraq. It took the unit about 38 hours of continuous travel, including building luggage pallets and sleeping on the sand at Qatar, to reach their new home for the next six months.

Living and working conditions are not the best in Kirkuk, but they are being improved daily. Personnel live, eat, and play in a tent city. Temperatures there vary from the low 30's in the winter months to highs in the 130's in the summer months. Three-minute showers are one of the things they will have to get used to.

Kirkuk Air Base does have its up sides, too. They have just opened up the first Burger King and Pizza Hut. While these are not like back home they are still a nice change from the chow hall food fare.

On Nov. 16, Maj. Joseph A. Cotner assumed command of the 447th Expeditionary Air Control Squadron, Detachment 1. The change of command ceremony took place at the deployed site. Colonel Jim Callahan, Base Commander, presented Major Cotner the detachment's colors.

The men and women deployed to this site have a long



Photo by Tech. Sgt. James M. Dekanich

Major Joe Cotner (right) assumes command of the 447th Expeditionary Air Control Squadron in Iraq from Capt. Robert Barry (center) of the 728th Air Control Squadron on November 16, 2003. The 447th EACS is composed of members of the 109th ACS. The presiding official was Col. James P. Callahan (left) who is the 506th Air Expeditionary Group Commander.

haul ahead of them, but are determined to show everyone that the Utah Air National Guard is TOPS in their field.



Photo by 109th ACS

Master Sgt. Chris Hesterberg on a captured Iraqi AAA gun



Photo by 109th ACS

Senior Master Sgt. Jeff Stubbs in front of a captured Iraqi anti-aircraft artillery weapon

1457th Engineer Battalion Meritorious Performance in Operation Iraqi Freedom

By Utah Minuteman Staff



Photo provided by 1457th

Lt. Col. Burton, Commander 1457th Engineer Battalion, with Command Sgt. Major Thorton

Major General Tarbet received a letter this past October from Colonel Don C. Young who was the Commander of the 1st Armored Division Engineer Brigade in Task Force Baghdad (TFB) and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) during the period May 15, 2003, to July 19, 2003. The 1457th Engineer Battalion (Corps) (Wheel), from the Utah National Guard, was task organized to Col. Young's Brigade during this period. Colonel Young was so impressed with the performance of the 1457th Engineer Battalion that he felt compelled to write a letter to The Adjutant General of Utah outlining the achievements of the Battalion. The following article highlights these achievements:

"The 1457th Engineer Battalion (Corps)(Wheel) is one of the finest engineer battalions that I have served with or observed during my 23 years of active-duty service. Talented soldiers and outstanding leaders are the source for their superb performance since mobilizing for operations in support of

OIF. Two tremendous soldiers brilliantly lead this battalion: Lt. Col. Jefferson S. Burton and Command Sgt. Major Steven L. Thorton. Both these great leaders shaped and motivated a unit that can best be described as positive, enthusiastic, dedicated, committed, and focused team players. The depth of military and civilian talent, resourcefulness, and innovative leadership ability within this unit is truly remarkable. They quickly became my 'Go To' unit. I assigned the toughest high visibility missions to this Battalion without hesitation knowing that they would always succeed in a timely and efficient manner. Here are a few examples of the achievements by the Pioneers (1457th Engineers):

"They rapidly prepared, rehearsed, and self deployed from the Port of Kuwait through Camp Virginia to Baghdad under intense heat, dust storms, enemy RPG attacks in multiple

lifts in order to be prepared for immediate mission execution in Baghdad.

"With minimum advance notice, the unit loaded, hauled and sifted through more than 4,000 tons of debris from a high profile Excavation Site in search of remains. This mission order originated from the Office of The Secretary of Defense and was done in record time despite intense media coverage and operating extensively through hostile sectors without any incidents or loss of life. Captain D.J. Gibb and his sappers performed superbly with this mission.

"They searched, cleared, and mapped an extensive network of underground tunnels, chambers and bunkers under adverse conditions to include flooding and enemy threat. They used conventional and robot-assisted techniques and procedures without incident to render safe all of the



Photo provided by 1457th

Members of th 1457th with captured weapons cash



Photo provided by 1457th

A member of the 1457th Engineer Battalion with Iraqi children

underground passageways at the Baghdad International Airport, which included more than 10,000 meters.

“They developed, rehearsed, and executed significant repairs to the 14th of July Suspension Bridge (now Freedom Bridge). The wire cable assemblies were damaged by machine-gun fire during the war. Their mission was to upgrade it from an armor ‘caution crossing’ condition to a ‘safe crossing’ condition with limited resources, at great heights, and under constant threat of sniper attack.”

“On their own initiative, resourced a Class IV/IX materials team in Kuwait led by CW3 Seth Waite that was critical to the Brigade and Division locating, securing, moving and utilizing construction and barrier materials in Baghdad for force protection, check points, Iraqi police stations, and quality of life initiatives.

“They developed numerous steel fabricated items to include guard towers and crew-served, weapon mounts that significantly enhanced the security and

force protection of the 4,500 soldiers assigned to the brigade.

“They jointly patrolled with military police to clear critical main routes of improvised explosive devices and unexploded ordnance that saved the lives of fellow soldiers traveling these routes.

“They routinely and eagerly supported the Brigade with no notice missions that included unloading of deliveries of critical supplies by air and commercial trucks at all hours of the day, with tight constraints, and extremely hot temperatures. The heart of this success was Maj. John Hansen (the Battalion S-3), who has managed over 300 projects to completion by the Battalion.

“They significantly upgraded the force protection posture of the Baghdad International Airport in order to facilitate the opening of the airport to military and commercial air traffic respectively.

“They demolished and cleared known enemy ambush sites along high usage routes in Baghdad to deny the

enemy any cover and concealment for subsequent roadside attacks.

“They established the highest standards of base-camp construction and force protection while simultaneously executing key and essential missions out in sector. Additionally, the operational readiness of the Battalion exceeded all war zone standards due to the hard work of Maj. Bill French (the Battalion XO) and Chief Warrant Officer Heber Hyde (Battalion Maintenance).

“This short letter provides you with a good sense for how truly remarkable this battalion performed everyday in Iraq in support of this operation. There are so many great soldiers, and leaders in this unit, that I could never begin to describe all their individual and collective efforts and accomplishments. The work ethic, positive attitude, and sense of commitment by every member of this Battalion are worthy of emulation by fellow soldiers from across the Army.”



Photo provided by 1457th

Maj. French 1457th XO

151st ARW Deploys to France

by Maj. Scott Lythgoe

The 151st Air Refueling Wing is back in the deployment saddle again. After the Unit deactivation this past summer, the 151st deployed planes, flight crews, and operations and maintenance support personnel to Istres Air Base, France. Planes and personnel began to deploy at the end of October and remained through the first week of December.

The 151st relieved the Nebraska Air National Guard as part of a scheduled rotation of ANG units. While deployed, the 151st was part of the 401st Air Expeditionary Wing located at Aviano, Italy.

The purpose of the deployment was to provide aerial refueling support for Operation Joint Force, which is part of NATO operations in the Balkans.



Lt. Col. Ron Blunck and Maj. Julie Anderson get to work mobility issues.

Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Cheryl Larsen

Additionally, Lt. Col. Kevin Nuccitelli from the Guard Bureau stated that the U.S. State Department wanted to maintain tankers in France to help strengthen diplomatic relations between the U.S. and France.

Istres is located in the Provence region of southern France near the industrial port city of Marseille.

Capt. Laura Goodman, Commander of the 774th Expedition-

ary Air Base Group reported that "the French people have been very receptive to (our) presence at Istres."

Capt. Goodman said many of the French expressed concern over disagreements in U.S.-French political relations. She was quick to point out that the French people still value the countries' long-standing friendship.

An ANG liaison officer reported that in a town by the base there was some graffiti on a wall that said in French, "Chirac you have left us, you have forgotten 1944."

On the lighter side, unit personnel indicate they are took full advantage of the opportunity to see the rich cultural sites of southern France.

They also report the food and shopping in Provence and surrounding areas made their temporary duty one to remember.



Photo by Chief Master Sgt. Lee Scott

Opns. Group members exploring the local area

130th Engineering Installation Squadron Meets High Demands During Mobilization

By Master Sgt. Kevin Larsen

Since September 11, 2001, several members of the Utah Air National Guard have had the opportunity to serve our country in the fight against terrorism. Capt. Liem Dang, Senior Master Sgt. Ron Messinger, retired Senior Master Sgt. Lloyd Taylor, and Staff Sgt. Bill Hall are only a few of the many members of the 130th Engineering Installation Squadron (EIS) who have been activated since that infamous day in September.

Captain Dang and Senior Master Sgt. Messinger were mobilized on October 16, 2001, and were released from duty on October 16, 2003. After serving their first year, both opted to extend for an additional year in order to support the mission they were involved in. People like these make us all want to continue to serve and make this world a better place for those who supersede us.

Dang, Messinger, and Taylor, along with members from the 272nd EIS in Texas, were heavily involved in the construction of the Combat Air Operations Center for HQ CENTCOM in Al Udiid, Qatar.

Missions such as this do not happen overnight; however, the efforts of the 130th and the 272nd, made it possible to get the job done in a timely manner.

Dang and Messinger agreed the conditions in Iraq were not the best; however, everyone was working continuously on improvements. Both agreed that improvements were welcomed especially when their latrine started out as a shovel with a roll of toilet



Photo by 130th EIS

Senior Master Sgt. Ron Messinger, left, with two coworkers at the entrance to the Baghdad International Airport

paper and showers were limited to two minutes every four days, if the water showed up.

The 130th had the cumbersome job of planning the communications system and then installing the necessary components to get the job done. There are 19 traditional Guard units and one active duty to fulfill the Engineer Installation mission for the Air Force. Everyone is concerned with communication whether it is between major commands in theater or with our loved ones back home.

Staff Sgt. Bill Hall, activated from June 10, 2003, to October 5, 2003, stated communication is a great

motivator when it comes to getting the job done. Hall stated everyone wants to be able to call back home.

Hall worked with other Engineering Installation Squadron members to equip an MWR area with 16 phones and 16 computers allowing those deployed to communicate with loved ones back home.

Editor's note: The rest of the 130th EIS members deployed to the Middle East returned home just prior to Christmas.

141st MI Battalion Members in Iraq



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Ron Henderson 323rd MI Bn

Members of the 141st MI Battalion, Utah National Guard, performing a critical intelligence gathering mission at the Abu Ghurayb, Iraq, Joint Interrogation and Detention Center

By Spc. David Monath, 323rd MI Bn

Abu Ghurayb, Iraq — The Joint Interrogation and Detention Center (JIDC) at Abu Ghurayb, Iraq, is the largest human intelligence collection facility in the theater, temporarily home to approximately 6,000 prisoners and staffed by 150 Guard members, Reservists, Active Component soldiers and civilian contractors.

Major Matt Price of the 141st MI Battalion, Utah National Guard, out of Orem, Utah, is the JIDC's Operational Officer. Assigned to the facility in late September, he traveled from Umm Qasr, IZ with a small team, arriving just a day after a deadly mortar attack took the lives of two soldiers and wounded over a dozen more. Major Price and his team quickly integrated into the operation, by completing a variety of tasks, from clearing rubble for sleeping space in the ransacked cell bays with the oversight of HHC's Capt. Tyler

Craner, to managing the tight-knit Tiger Teams used in interrogations. The Tiger Team concept links an analyst and an interrogator together so that the interrogator is assured of having the most reliable, up-to-date information, and the analyst has immediate access to the intelligence generated by the interrogator.

Referring to the challenge of establishing a functional interrogation and reporting process in mere weeks with a skeleton staff of 10-20% strength in many sections, Price asserts, "Our success was largely due to the initiative and motivation of our junior NCO's and enlisted soldiers."

The JIDC disseminates the Information Intelligence Reports its teams generate to a wide audience within the national intelligence community. This includes warfighting maneuver units such as the 82nd

Airborne Division and 4th Infantry Division, Special Operations Forces, three-letter government agencies and senior Department of Defense officials. Coalition forces daily employ the JIDC's intelligence to determine tactical raids on wanted individuals and neutralize identified threats.

A freshly captured detainee (almost always male) who enters the JIDC will first go through inprocessing, where he is assigned a number, photographed, recorded into the prisoner database, medically evaluated, and given a preliminary screening by facility interrogators. Chief Warrant Officer Jeffrey Hanson, also of the 141st MI Battalion, led the screening operation prior to his redeployment home, wrapping up a 389-day tour. Chief Hanson and his NCOIC, Sgt. 1st Class Steve Roberts and lead screener Sgt. Benjamin Hill (both 141st) have been

responsible for studying all capture related information provided with the detainees and evaluating each individual's intelligence potential.

The entire screening team routinely talks to between 50 and 60 detainees per day, although the great majority are simple criminals who are labeled "No Intel Value" and placed in a large compound named Camp Ganci. The remaining few, consisting of IED makers, anti-Coalition insurgents, Black List associates and key Ba'athists, are sent to Camp Vigilant for the duration of their interrogation schedule. Both compounds are austere tent cities, where sections are divided by eight-foot stacks of concertina wire, and overlooked by 30-foot guard towers from which MPs stand watchful, armed with SAWs and ubiquitous M-16s.

Living conditions are vastly different for the current prisoners at Abu Ghurayb under the control of primarily U.S. personnel, compared to life under Saddam's former regime. Saddam's prisoners were given one meal a day, consisting of soup with lentils and a piece of bread, while Coalition detainees are fed from the same rations the facility's soldiers ate up until the new dining facility was constructed a month ago.

The prison was designed and commissioned in the 1950's, although it wasn't completed until 1969. Built to hold 10,000 criminals in a modern, progressive environment, Saddam's emerging Ba'ath Party crammed over 70,000 prisoners into the cells and bays, filling 10'x10' cells with up to 40 people at one time. The prisoners created their own rotational systems for lying down and standing up, since there wasn't enough space.

Today, detainees live in waterproofed military tents and sleep

on the same Army-issue cots used by the soldiers who guard them. Now that winter has taken the ambient temperature from 140 degrees Fahrenheit down to 60, MPs distribute blankets and extra clothing for warmth.

Saddam quickly made the name Abu Ghurayb synonymous with torture and death. The prison became the single most feared installation in Iraq, the equivalent of a World War II German concentration camp. For 30 years Abu Ghurayb was a black hole for enemies of the Ba'ath Party, criminals and scapegoats. Incoming prisoners waited months at for their trials, which, when they finally arrived, were conducted in summary fashion en masse by a single judge with no jury or witnesses. The most common sentence was death, while a handful of individuals in each group found themselves with a life sentence, and more rarely terms of 20-30 years.

Once condemned, guards hung the vast majority of prisoners, although execution by firing squad and acid bath were common, and prison workers frequently tortured still others to death with beatings and electroshock. Like

many evil regimes, Saddam's government fixated on accounting and record keeping, leaving behind monumental paper trails of executions and torture. After the fall of Baghdad, many Ba'athists, with the most to lose, attempted to destroy whatever documentation they could. Nonetheless, reams of evidence and the testimony of former prison officials show that, commonly, up to 66 prisoners were executed on each of the two allotted days per week, Wednesdays and Sundays.

The numbers peaked during the height of the Iran-Iraq war in the 1980's, with hundreds executed at a time, not counting the periodic purges ordered by Saddam and his sons, Uday and Qusai. Qusai ordered the last mass purge of 900 prisoners in 1998. Statisticians and regime insiders estimate the total number of Iraqis killed at Abu Ghurayb at 100,000. Five mass graves have been found to date in the close vicinity of the prison, although there are scores of such sites around the country. "It's a good thing for the Iraqis that we run the place and not Saddam," states Sgt. 1st Class Roberts matter-of-factly, "and they know it."



Maj. Price and his family just prior to mobilization to Iraq

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Greg Cullis

The 142nd MI Battalion's Experience in Iraq



142nd Soldiers in Iraq

Spread out! Take cover! Find a job! "Those were not necessarily my exact words when we hit the ground last year," stated Lt. Col. Edward B. Gundersen, Commander of the 142nd MI Battalion. "But that may be a good way to describe what happened to us upon our arrival in the Middle East."

For the 142nd MI Battalion, the past year was a season of surprises, little turned out as planned. The mission was ever changing, ever challenging, ever elusive, ever expanding. The soldiers of the 142nd underwent the full spectrum of the Army combat experience ranging from prolonged periods of suffering and boredom, to routine days of scheduled duty, to short adrenaline rushes from brushes with death. And through it all, the battalion managed to come out on top -- recognized, in the end, as one of the most outstanding collection of individuals in theater -- a unit executing one of the most complex and multi-faceted missions in the history of National Guard deployments.

This is their story: On January 21, 2003, the battalion commander received "the phone call" and alerted the unit. Three days later, the soldiers were mobilized to their respective armories, and a mere three days after that, the unit left Camp Williams and traveled to "sunny" Fort Carson, Colorado. Unfortunately, the beautiful sunny weather quickly turned into what is now officially known as "The Blizzard of 2003." Crammed into two, 70-yards long, tin buildings with more than 50 sets of bunk beds jutting out from the walls of each building, the soldiers of the 142nd began an intense period of close-quarters social adjustment. Their only relief from the crowded conditions was an occasional 80-yard dash in the snow and mud out to the latrines and showers.

At the same time, they also started an intense period of combat validation. And to the dismay of many of the counterintelligence agents and the pure linguists in the unit, everyone had to train and familiarize as an interrogator. After all, the mission was to establish a Joint Interrogation Facility in Northern Iraq, handling prisoners of war captured by the 4th Infantry Division — or so they thought.

But it was not to be. Once everyone had been trained as interrogators and had acquired a few basic skills, the mission changed. Turkey, after much debate, decided to refuse passage to U.S. Forces, and the unit was subsequently deployed to Kuwait on April 7th, where the new mission at Camp Udairi was . . . "hurry up and wait!" And what a place to wait! Intense heat, scorpions, and dust so thick in the tents it looked like steam.

By SFC Wendell Jepson, 142nd MI Bn



142nd Soldiers in the field

The tents became so hot during the day that the soldiers would have to step out into the blazing rays of the noonday sun for relief. The mechanic's tools were so hot they could not touch them, even though they had been left in the shade. But it wasn't all bad. You could get into the PX after only three hours of standing in line in 120-degree heat.

For the alert reader who is waiting to find out what happened to combat mission, change one, here is that story. Earlier, at the end of February, a few lucky, brave, and handpicked "volunteers" were discretely plucked out of the ranks and secretly sent off in the direction of Northern Iraq to support the 10th Special Forces. Their mission was to perform prisoner of war interrogations, under the protection of the Peshmerga (Kurdish) soldiers.



142nd Soldiers ready for mission

Photos provided by 142nd MI

Photos provided by the 142nd MI Bn

The combat mission changed again; seven of these 28 soldiers actually entered Iraq and conducted Arabic translations and interrogations. These seven met every mission requirement given them by the 10th Special Forces Group at the highest professional standards. Unfortunately, the other 21 volunteers remained in the Eastern European staging area, largely without task or mission, just like the Battalion main body back in Kuwait. The Romanian group finally linked up with the Battalion in early April.

The Battalion main body, in the meantime, had been given the mission searching for Weapons of Mass Destruction. The Battalion main body had been languishing in the deserts of Kuwait for two weeks, mainly due to the fact that they were a surprise to the receiving commander, the colonel who ran the 513th MI Brigade. The 142nd MI Battalion had shown up 8-10 days early and only five days after their new boss had been alerted to their coming. After two weeks of musing, his official response was, "I've decided not to decide about how to use your battalion. It will probably take 30 days to see if we can use you." Furthermore, the 513th Command Sergeant Major said to the 142nd Command Sergeant Major, "You're not supposed to be here. We don't need you." The 142nd had come prepared to climb a great mountain, and were not even offered a molehill. To say that the soldiers were "somewhat disappointed" would not fully or accurately describe the unit's morale at that moment.

It seems that the 513th commander had been expecting the 323rd MI Battalion (U.S. Army Reserve), who showed up one week before the 142nd, and who were immediately put to work



142nd Soldier with HMMWV

in the 513th DOCEX facility, located only 50-meters away from the 142nd's tents. Even though the 142nd is the known leader in document exploitation, and literally wrote the manual on it, the 513th command did not task its soldiers to help. However, enterprising 142nd soldiers crossed the wire, greeted former training buddies, and got unofficial, low-level permission to go to work. At this point, theater-level Military Intelligence planners realized that they were so short on Arabic and Persian Farsi linguists and interrogators that they began to send e-mail inquiries directly to all of the battalions in theater with a specific fill-in-the-blank format. When the 142nd officers responded to this inquiry, plugging their available numbers into the stated categories, a decision was made at theater level to give the 142nd a new mission. The unit became part of the 75th Exploitation Task Force (ETF), headquartered at Tallil Air Force Base in Iraq.

At first, the 75th ETF commander was able to use only 80 of the 142nd soldiers for the Site Survey Team

missions. His priority list was first Arabic linguists; second 97E's, 351E's, and warrant officers; third HMMWV drivers; and fourth experienced and mature soldiers who were seasoned in convoy operations. During these missions, the 142nd was instrumental in clearing off the Initial Target List of Suspected WMD Sites, a critical and non-optional step in high-level operations planning.

By the time the Battalion was settled into the Baghdad area, its soldiers were still only half employed, and those who were employed were conducting primarily Infantry functions. Lieutenant Colonel Gundersen continued to educate and enlighten his superiors, pushing for more relevant and optimal uses of his MI trained soldiers. The Iraq Survey Group (ISG), a pre-planned follow-on to the 75th ETF, came into theater on approximately June 6th and located in the 142nd area, near the Baghdad airport. This organization brought into theater an increased requirement for manpower, especially for soldiers with military intelligence-related skills. Eventually, the 142nd soldiers had a chance to move from purely infantry-type jobs into intelligence production support. Many finally got to work in their MOS, but not all.

At first, Iraq Survey Group decision makers were reluctant to use reserve soldiers, but the need was so great for MI skills, that they gave a few 142nd soldiers a tryout. Their performance was so impressive that it opened the door for more and more 142nd soldiers to move into the ISG arena. Gradually but steadily, the 142nd was integrated into every aspect of ISG operations, everything from making ID

Continued on next page

cards to commanding Mobile Collection Teams in and around the Baghdad area.

Towards the end of their tour, it was not unusual to see one of the 142nd MI soldiers, in beard and soft cap, handgun in a black canvas holster strapped to his hip, directing all of the members of a Mobile Collection Team to circle around him so that he could give them both the concept and execution of the mission and a dead-serious safety and “react-to-fire” briefing. Among other things, the 142nd soldiers have become the essential element in ISG Mobile Collection Team security.

The success of the full employment and more meaningful utilization of 142nd MI soldiers with the ISG was, in part, a result of the restless nature of the mature, educated, and outgoing personalities that characterize the individual soldiers of the 142nd. This particular group of soldiers had no intention of going home empty handed. They had been extended involuntarily, and many felt that the extension was both unfair and unnecessary.

In spite of their adverse feelings about being separated from their families for more than a year, they displayed an impressive work ethic and performed to their best levels. They were going to make the time count. The overwhelming energy of this highly pro-



Photos provided by the 142nd MI Bn

142nd MI Bn Soldiers performing assigned missions

active unit had to be harnessed and directed, and the ISG missions became the final outlet. Many 142nd soldiers were pro-active and showed great ingenuity in securing more relevant work for themselves.

This is not to say that every soldier in the unit is currently satisfied with the deployment in general. Many are not. Many continue to be disappointed that their extensive MOS training did not result in thousands of interrogations and significant intelligence findings. The reality of this deployment is that the soldiers of the 142nd were used as soldiers: operations sergeants, intel clerks, gate guards, drivers, bodyguards, report writers, typists,

database managers, NCOIC's, shift leaders, liaisons, convoy planners, staff duty officers, clerks, vehicle maintenance supervisors and yes, even for building and grounds clean up and police call.

The unit grabbed every opportunity to use its soldiers as interrogators, counterintelligence agents, linguists, and intelligence report writers. But at the end of the day, those jobs constituted only a fraction of the unit's overall contribution to Iraqi freedom. The unit didn't conquer Iraq. It merely played a supporting role. But supporting actors do win Oscars. The generous verbal accolades from the top ISG officials, pointing out a superior performance by the 142nd soldiers, may be more than just high praise. It is more likely a confirmation of the innovative and outstanding contributions of a talented and dedicated Utah National Guard unit in a fluid combat environment. But more importantly than the accolades and the Joint Achievement Medals on the chests of the 142nd soldiers are the huge smiles on the faces of the Iraqi people, which, better than any other measure of success, indicate “mission accomplished.”



Winter Fire Training

U.S. Army Photo by Spc. Scott Faddis, 128th MPAD



Smoke exits the tube after a team from Battery C, 1/145th fires a 155mm high-explosive (HE) round. The HE round is the main round used by the artillery against targets.

By Spc. Scott Faddis 128th MPAD

Camp Williams- The 1/145th Field Artillery Battalion conducted field-training exercises in the snow the weekend of January 9-11. The battalion of about 450 soldiers set up their M-198s, a towed 155mm howitzer, and trained in tough conditions and cold weather.

"This training is tough because of the cold weather, but it helps us prepare for our real-world mission," said Lt. Col. Jerry Acton, Commander of the 1/145th. "The enemy doesn't fight just in the summer. We need to be able to fight in every environment," he said.

The snow was at least a foot deep in most places at Camp Williams that weekend. That challenge did not seem to deter the members of the 1/145th.

"We train in the winter because it is

a lot different. We need to react to the cold and the snow," said Acton. The snow required chains on all the 2-1/2 ton trucks that pull the guns.

Staff Sgt. Jason Myers' team doesn't mind the cold weather. For most of the day the sun was shining, allowing them to take off some of their heavy winter clothes.

Myers' team is lucky because for this training, the unit has almost double the number of rounds that they would normally have.

The team spends the downtime between rounds with smalltalk about things that are going on in their lives.

When the mission is heard over the radio from the fire direction control, the team jumps into action.

The radio operator relays the coordinates and type of round being fired to the rest of the team.

The team jumps into action with Myers yelling out instructions to the rest of the team.

Gunner Sgt. Rick Strong grabs the loads the round and charges into the howitzer before he connects the lanyard.

Spc. Mike Jones sets the elevation of the gun and waits as Myers checks both the elevation and deflection before giving Strong the order to fire the round.

"The snow and cold weather are great for team building," said Capt. Steven

Fairbourn, commander of Battery C, 1/145th in Spanish Fork, Utah.



Staff Sgt. Jason Myers checks the alignments put in by Spc. Mike Jones before gunner Sgt. Rick Strong fires the round.

US Army photo by Spc. Todd Sparks

Sacrifice Times Five

Story by Maj. Hank McIntire, 128th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment



Photo by Spc. Scott Faddis, 128th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Kelly, Chelsea, Chris, Paul, and Marilyn Johnson spend a few moments together before Spc. Chris Johnson, HHC, 211th Aviation, departs for Afghanistan.

In November 1864, a letter signed by President Abraham Lincoln arrived at the home of a Mrs. Bixby, mother of five sons who reportedly died on the field of battle during the Civil War. In that correspondence, Lincoln expressed gratitude to her for her sons' service and the price they paid in the Union's cause.

"I cannot refrain from tendering to you the consolation that may be found in the thanks of the Republic they died to save . . . and the solemn pride that must be yours to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom," Lincoln wrote.

Then and now, war is a time of sacrifice for soldier and family alike.

Since 9/11, the war on terror has impacted many Utah families as Guard members continue to deploy to destinations overseas while their loved ones remain at home to watch and wait.

Among those who have bid a temporary farewell to their soldier are the Paul and Marilyn Johnson family of Salt Lake City. At first glance, the Johnsons seemed like typical Guard parents as they gathered at the West Jordan armory on Jan. 4 to send off their youngest son, Spc. Chris Johnson, a cook with Headquarters Company of the 211th Aviation Regiment, headed for Afghanistan.

However, as parents of seven sons

and one daughter, the Johnsons are by no means rookies in the deployment game. Chris is the fifth member of their family to be called to active duty in the past year. Three of the Johnsons' sons and a son-in-law are also members of the Utah National Guard and are already serving as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Their sons, Sgt. Phil Johnson, Sgt. Caleb Johnson, and Sgt. Nick Johnson are currently deployed in Iraq with the 1457th Engineer Battalion, and their son-in-law, Master Sgt. Doug Kinsman, is a member of the 115th Engineer Group, also in Iraq.

Chris Johnson, who will spend up to three months at Fort Carson, Colo.



Photo by SFC Greg Cullis

before deploying to Afghanistan, feels the weight and responsibility of upholding the family military tradition. "I'm nervous and excited. I've got big shoes to fill. I hope I can make them proud," he said.

As a mother, Marilyn Johnson acknowledges that this is a bittersweet day for her. "I worry like a mother does, but I'm so proud of them and the love they have for their country and for their fellowmen." She adds, "They've sacrificed a lot, but they would do it in a heartbeat for those that they love."

Two of the Johnsons' daughters-in-law, Kelly Johnson and Chelsea Johnson, were also there to see Chris off. Their husbands, Nick and Caleb, are due home from Iraq later this spring.

In seeing her brother-in-law Chris join his brothers, Kelly said, "It's a sad thing to let them go, but I'm so proud of them. It's just an awesome thing that they are doing."

Chelsea agrees that it has been difficult, but she has also grown from

the deployment experience. "It has helped me to appreciate my country a lot more and the sacrifices that men and women have made throughout our country's history," she said.

In addition to the five who are currently deployed, two of the Johnsons' other sons also served in the Utah National Guard. Son Jake served as a communications specialist with the 1457th Engineers a few years ago, and Josh was deployed during Operation Desert Storm in 1991 with an engineer unit from Delta, Utah.

Ironically, Paul Johnson never served in the military himself. "I guess I made my contribution through my sons," he said with a shy smile.

Like his wife, Paul is proud of his sons and son-in-law and is optimistic about the impact their service will have. "They've done great. I hope that when they come home the world is a better place," he said.

At each unit departure, Utah's Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Brian Tarbet, visits briefly with as many

families as possible, but on this occasion, he took a little extra time with the Johnsons to hear their unique story for himself. And reminiscent of Lincoln's letter to Mrs. Bixby, Tarbet paid a generous tribute to the Johnsons and all other Utah Guard families for their sacrifice in sending their soldiers off to an uncertain environment overseas.

"Every time I come to one of these [departures] I'm struck by what a cost it is to these families to do this. I can't thank them enough and frankly, I'm in awe of them," Tarbet said. "You never get used to this. Every one of them is new. Of course for the family in question, it is new. It's their soldier. It's D-Day for them, and I think that's the perspective we need to keep on this."

Marilyn Johnson is counting down the days until all her soldiers are safely home. "It's an emotional roller-coaster from day to day. We hope our next reunion is going to be welcoming them home. We're looking forward to that end of it," she said.

Loss of Navigators on Tankers Signals the End of an Era

By Lt. Col. David Thomas

With navigators leaving the crew force, it signals the end of an era. For over 42 years, since 1961, navigators have guided Utah Air National Guard planes to exotic destinations the world over.

As with all things, progress moves us forward. Gone are the days of using a sextant and plotting celestial fixes. The navigator, once a vital crewmember, has been replaced by the computer age.

"The KC-135 was designed as a four-person aircraft. With the new gadgetry (Pacer CRAG) (aircraft) navigation is not where we are losing. Once the navigator was gone it was just a matter of teaching the pilots which button to push. What we are losing is an extra set of eyes, especially in times of crunch," said Col. Larry Johnson, Wing Commander and Aircraft



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Michael Evans

Former and current navigators for the 151st Air Refueling Wing gathered for the last time on October 4, 2003 at the base.

Commander for the 151st Air Refueling Wing.

According to Lt. Col. Don Farnsworth, the 151st ARW Intelligence Officer and a navigator, "What we are losing is our corporate knowledge and experience. The navigator was very good for the tanker mission since it involved more than going from point A to B.

Navigators by training are detail oriented and can fill many staff positions (that require flying knowledge). In some ways the active duty is smarter, by doing all they can to hold on to their navigators," said Farnsworth.

Even though most navigators will no longer fly (a few will fly occasionally for the next few years), they will still be around. Other base units have absorbed many, while a few have hung up their sextants and retired.

Most pilots will tell you that having

a navigator on board is reassuring, especially when in unfamiliar parts of the world or when things didn't go as planned. The extra crewmember was a comfort.

They may be gone, but the navigators have certainly left their stamp on the Utah Air National Guard.

Editor's note: A few navigators will remain on flying status for the next few years to perform a few special missions where a navigator is required.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Brad Leiter

Lt. Col. Steve Adams, 151st ARW navigator, stands beside a Utah ANG KC-135.



“Patriot Way” Memorial Walkway Dedicated

by Airman 1st Class Christiana Elieson

Three and a half years ago the Patriot Way Memorial Walkway was just a dream. On Saturday, November 1, 2003 with snow falling softly on the lush green of the grass, that dream became a reality.

Stretching from the base flagpoles south to the edge of the new headquarters building, the walkway gives a history of each step in the journey of the Utah Air National Guard.

The POW/MIA circle, at the southern edge, was designed to be a place of contemplation. The plaques on the wall tell the story of the many conflicts fought and the names of those who died in the line of duty.

The Wall of Honor, modeled after the Vietnam Wall, is a place where retirees can bring their families to visit and “rub off” his or her name. It also gives them an opportunity to show their loved ones gratitude for the many hours they dedicated to their country.

The dedication for what has been dubbed Patriot Way, brought together five of the original members of the Utah ANG: Brig. Gen. Roland R. Wright, Col. Albert Mulder Jr., Lt. Col. Allen D. Young, Senior Master Sgt. William F. R. Park, and Senior Master Sgt. Max L. Richards. The five original members cut the ribbon for the northern part of the walkway; the current commanders opened the southern part of the walkway to the public.



U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Keith J. Campbell

Dedication of Walk of Honor. Retired Lt. Col. Allen D. Young, a former POW, helps to raise the POW/MIA flag.

Lt. Col. Young, a World War II POW, cut the POW/MIA flagpole ribbon. After the POW/MIA flag was raised, Taps played to pay respect to those who are MIA or served as a POW.

Lt. Col. Thomas H. Shaw said of this project, “Through the outstanding efforts of many, the project has added a new dimension to the base. A renewed dedication has emerged and a greater respect for all who have gone on before, has increased.”



Photo By Master Sgt. Ren Willie (Ret.)

Original members cut the tape to open the memorial.



Photo By Master Sgt. Ren Willie (Ret.)

Brig. Gen. Dewsnap, Col. Johnson and Col. Harrison salute as the bugler plays “Taps.”

115th Maintenance Company (GS), a Key Army Asset

By Sgt. 1st Class Wesley Glenn



The 115th Maintenance Company (General Support) spent the past year assisting in the deployments of other units, preparing for deployments, and getting ready for Annual Training at the National Maintenance Training Center at Camp Dodge, Iowa. Camp Dodge, Iowa, is one of the best Army Maintenance facilities in the Army, and is one of the few places that the Maintenance Company can function as a general support maintenance company. The staff at Camp Dodge challenges our senior leadership, training the shop officer, inspectors, and section sergeants in their wartime mission. Production goals are set, but turning out a quality product is emphasized. The



Automotive Crew with 8V92T Engine going to Dyno for test



Sgt 1st Class Fellows and Sgt. Schutz rebuild an MT 740 Transmission at the National Maintenance Training Center at Camp Dodge, Iowa

senior leadership is challenged to meet both objectives, returning large quantities of quality products to the Army supply system.

Many of the engines and transmissions that were built are being used to fill orders from the theater in Iraq and Afghanistan. This real world emphasis placed an increased emphasis on doing the job and doing the job right the first time. The 115th Maintenance Company completed a total of 3,450 man-hours of direct labor in the repair of 40 engines (6.2, 8.3, 8V92) and 5 Transmissions (MT 654, 740, THM400). Electronics Teams repaired RT 1523-A singcars radios and received cross training on the 6.2 engine line. The Armament Platoon repaired LRU's, grip assemblies and elevation mechanisms of the M1A1 Tank. The unit was tasked and exercised in all phases of general support maintenance operations, completing its mission of producing a finished product. This

training is the stepping-stone for our next deployment in Training Year 2005 in Kaiserslautern, Germany.

New equipment training was conducted on the Power Test Engine Dyno, which is new to the CSMS and the state of Utah. Personnel were also given the opportunity to train on the transmission dyno. Overall, \$ 624,346 in repaired items were returned to the theater Army supply system for immediate shipment to Iraq and Afghanistan.



Engine Platoon in tear down of cross-drive transmission

Photos by Staff Sgt. Lawrence Lopez

Photo by SSG Lawrence Lopez

1st Battalion, 145th Field Artillery Drives On

By 2nd Lt. Lee Kelley

The 1st Battalion 145th Field Artillery spent the last six months refining artillery skills, and readjusting to civilian life after their deployment. Name a profession, and chances are the 145th has a soldier who does it for a living. The 145th completed a one year mobilization, providing security for the Tooele Chemical Depot as part of Operation Noble Eagle II last September.

While most of the 1st Battalion, 145thFA was in Tooele for their deployment, a small group was left behind. Most of the remaining soldiers were deployed to Operation Armored Falcon, in support of security for the Utah Air National Guard. Some of these soldiers recently returned to their regular National Guard positions, but a handful decided to extend for another year to support the Armored Falcon II mission.



Photo from UTARNG files

Members of the 1st Battalion 145th Field Artillery refining their artillery skills after returning from their active-duty tour.

Along with re-deployment came changes in leadership. As soon as the Battalion returned, Lt. Col. Michael Barrera handed over command of the 1st Battalion, 145th FA to Lt. Col. Jerry

Acton. They also have a new Operations Officer, Maj. Robert Hales; a new Logistics Officer, Capt. Andy Hubbert; and a new Administrative Officer, Capt. Lance Mendenhall. The Battalion also acquired many young enlisted soldiers and is excited to get them trained and integrated into the artillery family.

With such new talent among the ranks, and the experience that already exists, the Battalion has a bright future as an important element in Utah's Army National Guard. The Battalion, affectionately called the "Big Red" Battalion by its members, has always been able to overcome and adapt to any challenge that it faced. Regardless of its current mission, overlapping deployments, or the multitude of changes the Battalion must face, it remains one of the finest the Field Artillery community has to offer - always "Relevant and Ready."



Photo from UTARNG Files

Members of the 1st Battalion, 145th Field Artillery training in their primary military occupation skills.

20-Years of Dedicated Service by the 640th Regiment (RTI)



The 640th RTI trains in all kinds of weather. Here some students prepare for a field exercise that reinforces their classroom instruction.

As the sun slowly peaks over the Wasatch Mountains, a haze of purple smoke hangs over the juniper trees at the base of Medic Hill. Corporal Chris Young from Boise, Idaho, is the assigned squad leader and directs his two-team leaders, Sgt. Robert Schrock, from Lawton, Oklahoma, and Spc. Salvador Sanchez, from Torrance, California, to lead their teams into a defensive position at the top of Medic Hill. Once the squad reaches the top of the hill, Young further directs the squad to set up defensive positions, draw sector sketches, and establish crew served weapons locations. All the same time Staff Sgt. Mark Loria and Staff Sgt. Allen Jackson, their assigned Primary Leadership Development Course (PLDC) instructors, take notes. Later, Young will conduct an after action review with the squad, focusing the discussion on, not only the soldier's actions, but also the leader's actions.

Staff Sergeant Loria and SSgt. Jackson listen to make sure everything they had written down is talked about.



640th RTI instructors with students during field training

By Sgt. 1st Class David L. Ryan

After a short break, Staff Sgt. Loria and Staff Sgt. Jackson give another combat scenario to the squad, but this time Sgt. Sonia Shaw, from Camp Roberts, California, is assigned to be the squad leader, and Spec. John Puentes, from Albuquerque, New Mexico, and Spc. Jordan Christensen, from Richfield, Utah, are assigned to be the team leaders.

The field training is only a part of the PLDC package. Many hours of classroom instruction precedes the Field Training Exercise. Soldiers learn about counseling, map reading, NCOERs, drill and ceremonies, inspections, duty rosters, rifle marksmanship and a host of other important subjects. Not only do they get to learn in the classroom, they also get to put their training into practice while acting as squad leaders, platoon sergeants and first sergeants in both garrison and field environments.

Photos provided by 640th RTI

For 20 years, the 640th Regiment (RTI) has been repeating this model; training soldiers from all over the country to be better leaders with their Primary Leadership Development Course (PLDC), Basic Non-Commissioned Officers Course (BNCOC), Advanced Non-Commissioned Officers Course (ANCOC), First Sergeants Course (FSC), and a number of 13 CMF courses. The academy also teaches a bus driver training course, instructor training course, small group instructor course, non-prior service personnel training course, combat lifesaver course and Officer Candidate School. In those twenty years they have trained over 50,000 soldiers from all fifty states and most of the territories. Most of their students are National Guard or Army Reserve soldiers, but they have also trained students from the active Army and the Navy. They even had an Army Reserve student from Korea.

The 640th Regiment (RTI), formerly known as Region V NCO Academy, Utah Regional Training Academy and the 140th Regiment (RTI), was organized in April 1984 with instructors and leadership from most of the western states. They taught their first class in May 1984 and have been going strong ever since. When the school first started, the only class they taught was Primary Non-Commissioned Officers Course (PNCOC). The PLDC replaced PNCOC in 1985 and was the only course the academy trained until 1996. Over the years the RTI has experienced many changes. There have been numerous changes to the program of instruction, name changes, course changes, new courses added and many personnel changes. But they have never



Photos provided by 640th RTI

Classroom instruction at the 640th RTI at Camp Williams

varied in their commitment to quality training. This commitment was recognized last year when the Sergeants Majors Academy awarded them the Battalion of Excellence Award during the RTI's accreditation. It was the first time a National Guard school had ever received such an award.

Today, the 640th Regiment (RTI) has a staff of over 81 soldiers. Fifty-eight work full time as AGR, ADSW or Technicians and the rest are M-day. Colonel Linda Higgins is the Commander, Command Sgt.Maj. Craig Hone is the Regimental CSM and Command Sgt.Maj. Karl Shuler is the 1st Battalion CSM. Of the 58 full-time staff at the academy, there are only six

soldiers left who started with the unit in 1984.

The core of the academy is and has always been, the devoted instructors who daily give of themselves with extra time and effort to insure that a professional product is presented to the soldiers who pass through their doors. The instructors' selfless service and dedication to duty inspires and renews the soldiers' confidence in themselves, their unit, the Army and the Nation. The grueling schedule they work is incredibly demanding. But the trainers make the additional sacrifice because they enjoy their jobs and receive immense satisfaction from training the Army's future leaders.



Training Academy student completing compass course

130th EIS Annual Training at Wendover

By Senior Airman Michael MacKay

The weekend of June 19, 2003, the 130th Engineering Installation Squadron (EIS) conducted their annual training at the Wendover Airport.

The commander, Maj. Jack Wall, said it was "the best deployment that he had ever been a part of."

As a tradition, the 130th EIS has been accomplishing its ancillary training in a single, yearly deployment. This year's deployment was successful due to outstanding leadership and preparation by the teachers and others who were involved.

The training involved was very important for every member of the unit. The unit was able to compile all of the ancillary training for the entire year into an extended weekend including chemical warfare training. The material presented was given special attention to make these items seem second nature to every member of the squadron. It covered everything from the importance of information security to the proper way to apply first aid to a broken finger.

This year there was also preparation for the new Air National Guard physical fitness program.

The material covered will help the squadron function efficiently if they are called on in future activations.

Classes were arranged in an orderly fashion making it possible for the efficient movement of the troops.



Brig. Gen. Larry Lunt, Utah ANG Commander, puts out a simulated fire with an extinguisher.



Senior Airman Deanne Downey is taught first aid principles by Master Sgt. Korwyn Peck.

The preparation by the class teachers helped to ingrain the important skills into the memories of the students.

The chemical warfare training hit a little closer to home this year and was taken very seriously. The importance of proper usage of the equipment was stressed with baby powder (representing chemicals) that was placed on the ground then shown how easy it was to get on the inside of the gear as it was put on.

During the deployment there were two distinguished guests who attended, adding to the success of the operation. Brigadier General Larry Lunt, the Utah ANG Commander, was able to attend and see first hand the success of the deployment. He also took part in some of the training events.

The ancillary training program for the 130th came off without any major hitches, improving the unit as a whole and preparing them for any challenges ahead. The whole unit looks forward to the next yearly training.



Chemical suit training conducted at the Wendover site

Air Guard Changes the Look of Its Physical Fitness Assessment

By Senior Airman Ben Nichols

The Air National Guard introduced this last year their new physical assessment to replace the annual fitness run/walk. The Wing Staff completed their assessments during the Sunday morning drill.

The new assessment includes steps to check your heart rate, sit-ups, push-ups, stretching to touch your toes and measurements to determine your body fat. The assessment provides individuals with an age assessment for each category.

The category ages are then averaged into a final. A member's final average age must be no more than seven years older than their actual age. All members who failed the assessment were given an opportunity to pass it again before the end of the year.



Photo taken by Tech. Sgt. Keith Campbell

Col. Brent Winget, the Utah ANG Commanding Officer, does push-ups as Senior Master Sgt. Bob Gwilliam counts repetitions.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Keith Campbell

Staff Sgt. Wayne Lee exercises on a step as he holds a heart monitor in his right hand.

The Air National Guard leadership felt the old fitness test was not compliant with the new DOD standards. Additionally, they were concerned with the number of injuries and even deaths attributed to the old fitness test.

Senior Master Sgt. Robert Gwilliam, the Wing Staff 1st Sgt., explained the intent of the new standard was to encourage members to develop a fit lifestyle. According to him the standards came out in June 2003 and are being implemented across the ANG.

"Anytime there is a change, people are a little reluctant to change," said Gwilliam, "[but] after the first time [when] people see what it is like, I feel there will be a positive take on the new standards.

"We should make sure we live a healthy lifestyle by eating healthy and doing a moderate amount of exercise daily," summarized Gwilliam.

The Air Force considers it important enough that if you are not compliant with the fitness standards you cannot be promoted.

Staff Sgt. Adrian Broadhead, of the finance office, stated that a new PT test by itself would not change anything. Members need to discipline themselves to workout regularly.

Staff Sgt. Wayne Lee, a Chaplain's Assistant, thinks the new assessment is a great thing and it's about time we got something like this.

"We need to do it on a more regular basis, instead of just once a year," claimed Lee.

Lee remarked at how well the evaluation was done. He thought he was going to feel more pain, but after the test he felt good.

"We have a lot of overweight people," said Lee, "but if we are going to be a force to be reckoned with, we need to be physically fit."

A Military Wife will display Patriotic Bunting until her Husband Returns Home from Afghanistan

By Lori Buttars (The Salt Lake Tribune)

The following article appeared in The Salt Lake Tribune on January 2, 2004:

MIDVALE – Sue Skog is usually the first on her block to put up her Christmas decorations. This year, she was the first to take them down. Her house, however, is far from bare.

Skog spent the rest of her Christmas vacation hanging up red, white and blue lights, banners, flags and other patriotic trimmings that she says will hang there until her husband, Eric, a member of the Utah National Guard, comes home from Afghanistan.

“He hasn’t even left yet, and I just want people to know and remember the sacrifices these guys are making,” she says. Eric leaves Sunday with the 211th Aviation Battalion of Apache attack helicopter pilots, medics and support crews being deployed in Afghanistan. The company is scheduled to be gone for 18 months.

The decorations “will be up as long as he is gone and they will be as tired and tattered as he will be when he gets home,” Sue Skog says. She knows the strain the soldiers are under because this is the second time she has sent her husband off to the Middle East. The company also served a six-month tour in 2002 in Kuwait.

With all the hubbub over the war in Iraq and the capture of Saddam Hussein, Sue Skog says the efforts of U.S. Forces in Afghanistan and the hunt for terrorist mastermind Osama bin Laden are being overlooked. “It’s been two years and you’d think in that time, they would have sent some engineers over there to build some temporary



Photo by Steve Griffin (The Salt Lake Tribune)

Red, white and blue ribbons flap in the wind at the Midvale home of Sue and Eric Skog on Thursday. Sue Skog decorated their home with flags and lights to show support for her husband, who is leaving for Afghanistan. The lights will stay up until he comes home.

living quarters and some toilet facilities. Instead, he’ll be living in a tent,” she says, defiantly. “People always talk about the families being without their fathers and the things they have to do without while they are gone, but I really want people to look at these lights and think of him and what he’s doing for our country.”

Skog’s prescription for patriotism is already taking hold in her neighborhood. “Someone was asking the other day if I thought she would leave them up until he got home,” says neighbor Tish Peterson. “It wouldn’t surprise me. She’s that kind of person and I think it’s great she’s done this.”

Skog said the idea to decorate the house in red, white and blue came to her this fall, shortly after Eric received his deployment papers. He serves fulltime in the Utah National Guard doing repair work on the Apache

helicopters. Rumors of the company’s deployment had been rampant for months but the papers meant he was leaving for real. She came home to find her husband standing alone on the back deck of their house, taking in the yard and the surroundings. “He was thinking of our son, who is 6 years old, and how he will be almost 9 when his father returns,” Sue Skog recalled. “He said, ‘He’s supposed to start Little League. Who will get him ready?’”

The Skogs have invested in a laptop computer for Eric to take with him, and a digital camera for Susan to document everything while he is gone. Eric gave their household items a tune-up in hopes of keeping them in working order and has cut a deal with a neighbor to teach his 6-year-old son Trevor and 8-year-old daughter Jessie to ski.

Though his wife has been buying everything patriotic she could get her hands on, over the Internet and in stores, for the past several months, he was surprised by her New Year’s Eve makeover of the house. “I didn’t know about it until she started putting it up, two days ago,” he said. “Christmas went by really fast. I hope this [tour] goes by just as fast.”



Photo by SFC Greg Cullis

Members of 211th deploying

1st Sergeant Eric F. Skog

1st Sergeant of the Year 2003

By Spc. Jennifer Kelley

First Sergeant Eric F. Skog was born on March 12, 1965. He was raised in Salt Lake City, Utah, and graduated from Murray High School. In December 1982 he enlisted in the Utah Army National Guard where he attended Basic Training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Eustis, Virginia.

Upon graduating Advanced Individual Training, 1st Sgt. Skog spent his first enlistment as a helicopter Crew Chief on an AH-1 (Cobra) helicopters for the 163rd Attack Helicopter Troops (AHT). When the 163rd AHT was redesignated as the 211th Aviation Battalion, 1st Sgt. Skog became a Crew Chief on AH-64 (Apache) aircraft. In 1997 he became a Platoon Sergeant in Company B, 1st Battalion, 211th Aviation, and in August of 2001 he deployed with Taskforce 211 in support of Operation Desert Spring in Kuwait. In October of 2002 he became the First Sergeant of Company D, 1st Battalion 211th Aviation and in December of 2003 1st Sgt. Skog was selected as First Sergeant of the year to represent the state of Utah. In January 2004 he was mobilized to Afghanistan, where he is currently serving, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Some of his awards and decorations include Air Crewman Wings, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with M device, National Defense Service Medal and the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Greg Cullis

1st Sgt. Eric F. Skog, the Utah National Guard 1st Sgt. of the Year 2003. He is the 1st Sgt. for Company D, 1st Battalion, 211th Aviation, recently deployed to Afghanistan.

Prior to being deployed to Afghanistan, 1st Sgt. Skog was employed at the Army Aviation Support Facility as the Night Shift Supervisor and will resume working in that position upon his return. He has worked at the

Army Aviation Support Facility for 9 years.

First Sergeant Skog is married to Susan Skog and has three children. They reside in Midvale, Utah. Some of his interests include camping, water sports, and riding off-road.

Sergeant First Class Robert R. Conner

Noncommissioned Officer of the Year 2003

By Spc. Jennifer Kelley



Photo by SFC Greg Cullis

at Fort Kobbe, Panama, for four years and then at Fort Carson, Colorado, for another four years. After serving in the active Army for eight years, he rejoined the Utah Army National Guard serving in A Company, 1457th Engineer Battalion. Later, he joined the 116th Engineer Company (CSE).

Sergeant First Class Conner has been awarded the Army Service Ribbon, the National Defense Service Medal, Reserve Component Overseas Training Ribbon, Army Achievement Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Army Good Conduct Medal, Over Seas Service Ribbon, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, Army Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Utah Commendation Medal, Utah Service Ribbon with one silver beehive, and the Utah Army National Guard Recruiting Ribbon.

In January 2003, he attended the Advanced Noncommissioned Officer Course at Camp Williams, Utah, where he graduated in the top twenty percent of his class.

Sergeant First Class Conner is married to Catina Conner and has a beautiful 10-month-old daughter named Chloe Conner. His family lives in Nephi, Utah. Prior to being deployed, he was employed full time as a technician with the Utah Army National Guard in OMS#9 in Spanish Fork, Utah. Sergeant First Class Conner is currently the Maintenance Platoon Sergeant of the 116th Engineer Company (CSE) and is deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Sergeant First Class Robert Conner, selected as the Utah Army National Guard NCO of the Year 2003. He is the Maintenance Platoon Sergeant for the 116th Engineer Company, recently deployed to Iraq.

Sergeant First Class Robert R. Conner was born on November 17, 1963 in Roanoke, Virginia. He graduated from Juab High School went on to attend Provo College. In January

of 1982 Conner joined the Utah Army National Guard and served with Detachment 1, Company D, 1457th Engineer Battalion. In June 1985, he joined the Army on active duty, serving

Sergeant Jordan E. Grimstead

Soldier of the Year 2003

By Spc. Jennifer Kelley

Sergeant Jordan E. Grimstead was born on August 30, 1981 in Nephi, Utah. He comes from a family of seven children and was raised in the small town of Eureka, Utah. He attended Tintic High School and graduated in the spring of 1999. During his high school career, he enjoyed many extra curricular activities, which gave him many opportunities to learn and grow.

Sergeant Grimstead joined the Utah Army National Guard in September of 1998. He completed Basic Training and AIT at Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri, during the summer of 1999. Shortly after, he went on

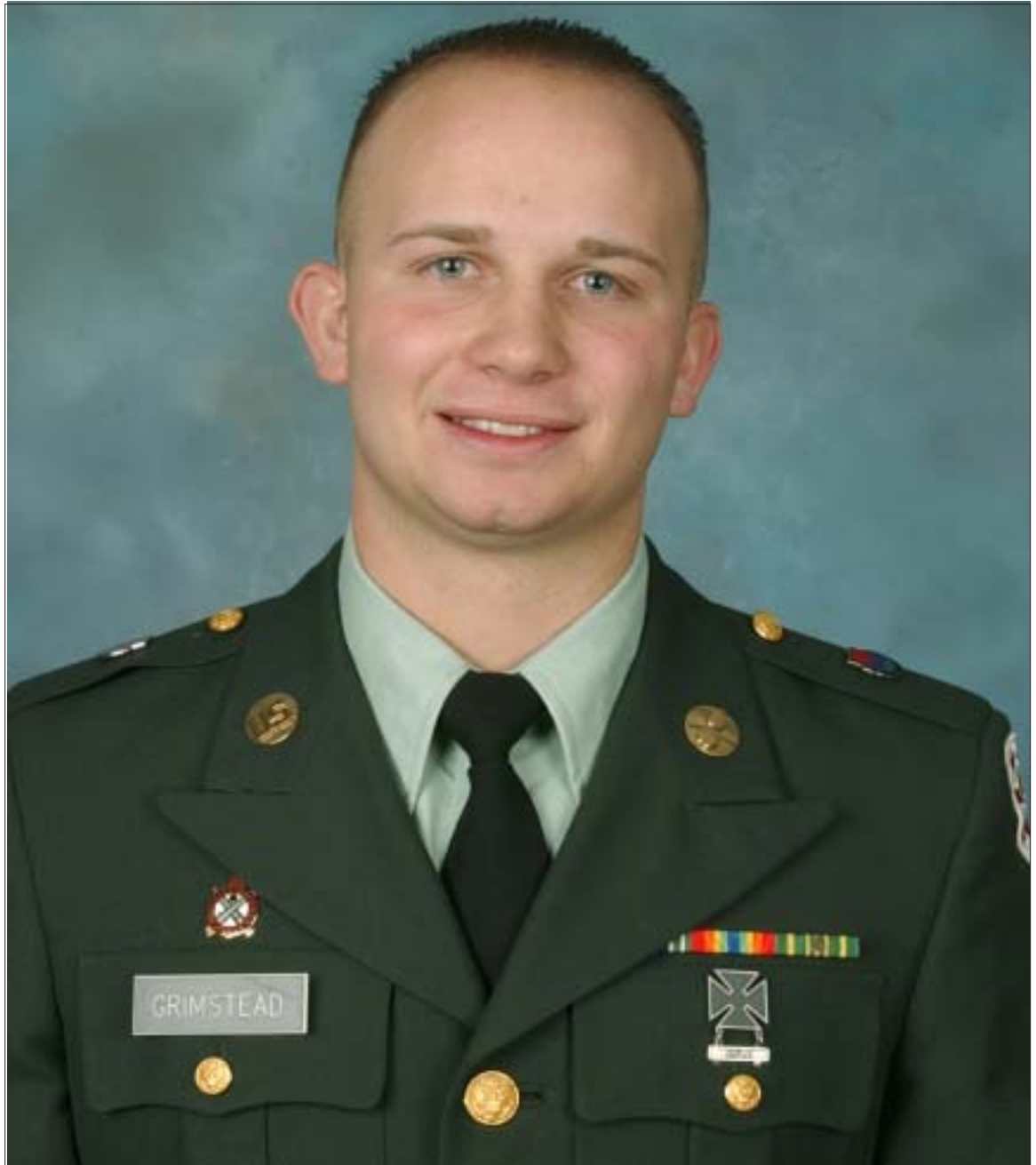
an LDS mission to Kiev, Ukraine. Upon returning, he returned to active status in the Utah Army National Guard.

Sergeant Grimstead has been awarded the Army Service Ribbon, the Army Achievement Ribbon, and the

Utah National Guard Achievement Ribbon.

Currently, Sergeant Grimstead is deployed with the 116th Engineer Company (CSE) in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Prior to being deployed, he worked full-time for

the Utah Army National Guard at OMS #6 in West Jordan, Utah. Sergeant Grimstead is currently assigned as the Assistant LDS Church Group Leader for the 116th Engineers, and serves in the Maintenance Platoon.



Sergeant Jordan Grimstead, Soldier of the Year 2003

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Greg Cullis

Family Separation

Preparation and Survival Techniques

By Airman 1st Class Christiana Elieson

You've been called up, your bags are packed, you've out processed, and you're ready to go; right? Not quite, if you haven't provided for your family's financial, physical, and emotional needs.

Day one is, in my opinion, the first hurdle of separation, but there are ways to financially, physically, and emotionally prepare for what can be a very enriching or devitalizing time for your family relationships. The outcome is determined by how you prepare, today, for tomorrow's deployment.

Beginning before you are called to Active duty, have your financial obligations in order. Make sure someone knows what is going on in the financial aspects of your life. Have a list prepared of account numbers, amounts owed, bills that need to be paid and when. Retain a current Power of Attorney. Have a list of

things that could possibly go wrong while you are away. Create a plan for each of these things so that if they do happen, there is a way to get it fixed. Make sure that dependant ID cards are up to date and are not going to expire before you return. This is a key thing if your spouse needs to go to the commissary or the BX or if someone needs medical attention. For those who have dependants, have you planned for a will? Have a little extra money set aside for these things, and appoint someone who you trust to assist. Check up with the person you appointed to take care of your finances to make sure they are being taken care of. This also will help you know what you have to spend for yourself if you are in an area that you cannot personally check

your accounts.

You should have everything squared away for physical contingencies, in case something happens. Before you leave make sure your family knows the numbers for the Red Cross, the recall roster, Family Support, the Chaplain, and the Air Force Aid Society. These people will be able to help with any physical problems that might occur.

Emotional needs at the time of separation are the hardest to cope with but most critical. For each person it's important to send pictures, letters, and e-mails whenever you can. Not

only are these great to read and see, but they also can be read and reread. If you are in a location where you can make phone calls home, make them as often as possible. Although you may not be able to hear your conversation over and over again, being able to hear a person you care about is invaluable. Take time to enrich your life with new classes, this will fill your schedule that otherwise would have been filled by a



Staff Sgt. Bill Hall, of the 130th Electronics Installation Squadron, hugs his daughter as he prepares to depart for Iraq.

Photo by Tech Sgt Burke Baker

spouse.

For the deployed person, make sure you take a couple of things that remind you of home and make your living area feel like home. This is invaluable to creating a little place that is emotionally comfortable even when the place you are in might not be physically comfortable at all. When you have time to go out and explore, don't do it all at once if you are going to be there for a while. Take your time so when you do have free time to leave base, it can always be a new adventure. If you used to doing something like giving flowers to a special someone each week, find a way to continue to do that before you leave, as a reminder to those who stay behind that you are still

Continued on next page

Family Separation continued from last page

thinking of them.

For those who are left at home, set up a routine so you can learn to have a little bit of normalcy each day. Seek out old friends and make new ones; these people are a great outlet for the frustrations and joys of deployment. Friends also can be a great way to be able to relax.

Coming home is a great time, but it can also be a time where you want to shower gifts on loved ones or take vacations. Before you do these things, stop and take a good look at your financial situation. Make sure you can afford to do the activities. Go through a thorough check of your finances with the person you appointed to take care of them before you left to make sure everything has been paid and find out where you are financially.

At the time you return home you will probably be tired and so will your family from trying to get everything ready for your homecoming. Homecomings can be exhausting, so give yourself and your family time to readjust before going to parties and seeing everyone again.

This is the time of emotional highs. It is wonderful to have the deployed person come home but it does take some time to readjust. Remember that there may be some uneasiness with changing the rhythms that have been working for the time that you were deployed. Be patient! Realize that life has changed and people may have become more independent than in the past. If you are calm and work through it with love and respect, the transition will be smoother.

Keeping things in perspective is probably the hardest thing before, during, and after the deployment. It may be a couple of months or a year or more, before you get to come home but keep it in perspective. Deployment is never an easy thing for either party involved but you can get through it. Remember this time can and probably will be stressful. There are ups and downs that come at roller coaster speeds, but if you are prepared, you will be able to make it through.

Hopefully these ideas will help you have a better experience when the time comes to deploy.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael Evans

Family members and friends of the 151st Security Forces Squadron anxiously await their arrival at the Salt Lake International Airport.

The 141st MI Battalion Family Readiness Group

More than Just a Group - We are Family.



A visit from The Adjutant General helps us know we have his support

By the time this article goes to print, some of the men and women of the Utah Army National Guard will be home after up to 14 months of mobilization and a full year of deployment. This is the Family Readiness Groups of the 141st Military Intelligence Battalion's year in review.

Winter 2002-2003: Like all units, the 141st Military Intelligence Battalion had a family readiness group. Our lists of volunteers were established. As all the pamphlets read, they were prepared to "give freely" and "contribute their time and energy" as well as ideas. Hey, let's face it, up until this past year, all that really meant was an annual briefing and maybe a fundraiser during drill. In the past, maybe once a year, we would catch up with those spouses seated at our immediate table. We had a few soldiers deploy and a few loyal volunteers who were always in the background. But as a Battalion, we didn't really know whose parents were ill, whose spouse got a great new job, or whose family was trying hard to adopt a lovely new baby. With units

from St. George to Logan, we hardly knew each other by sight. However, all that gradually began to change with the mobilization and deployments of elements of the 141st Military Intelligence Battalion. "Once Sam left, I resented the day that he volunteered me to be the Family Readiness Leader of our Company (Company B, Logan Utah)," Marianne Davis recently said. "I justified (in those first few moments) not doing anything with family support by saying my husband was gone too." She added. But Marianne Davis, Lisa Wheeler, Barbara Sizemore, Sheri Cochran, Holly Holt, and Glenna Jenson all dusted off their lists and started emails, letters and phone calls. Our family support tree came out of hibernation.

Spring 2003: By spring, all our branches were holding weekly or monthly meetings. Marianne held an Easter egg hunt in Logan. "I showed up with gathered goodies. The hunt was fun but something more important happened for me. I realized we needed each other." Lisa Wheeler organized

By Lt. Col. Barbara Hirst

monthly potlucks for those in the Salt Lake Valley. "We had quick classes on personal finances, budgets, My Pay and a film *Faces of the Middle East* on loan from the Middle Eastern Center at University of Utah, but more importantly we made friends." Lisa said. The same happened across the state, in Orem and St. George. Something happened every week. Baby showers, scrap booking, card making and just general gripe sessions. Annette Bolton designed a pin for the spouses and families of the 141st MI Battalion soldiers deploying prior to their departure. Many spouses and family members wore the pins the day our soldiers left for Fort Carson. Annette's husband would call home and ask about her "freedom pins" and that is how the name stuck. So much interest was generated in the freedom pins that Annette turned the pin into metal and started selling them around town and on the Internet. All the proceeds went to support the 141st MI Battalion moralebuilding activities. Support came from all over the nation. To honor her efforts Annette was nominated to attend the Governor's Spring Gala and was awarded a United States Flag that had flown over the State Capitol. Governor Leavitt, then Lieutenant Governor Olene Walker along with many others wore the pin that night. Debrah Larsen started an operation of collecting blank cards to send to deployed servicemen so they could send them to their loved ones. She read that the Marines were sending letters on old trash like MRE boxes when the idea came to her. It grew larger than she would have expected. She gets homemade greeting cards from all over the U.S.

*July 24th Parade in Logan*

Summer 2003: By the summer we all had realized the war was not ending with the end of the combat phase. We all adjusted to the news in different ways, but we found it was easier together. More baby showers this time for Lisa Ward and Erica Townsend. We had picnics in the parks of St. George, swimming parties, baseball games, and a trip to Dinosaur Park. One of the highlights of our summer was the 24th of July. Usually the soldiers march in Logan's 24th of July Parade and follow it with a picnic for all their families. Logan Family Readiness Group decided to have all of the families and children march instead. So all the children piled into Sergeant Dustin's decorated pickup and all of the adults walked behind carrying posters about the soldiers, their husbands and fathers. They learned that day that their personal sacrifices were not made in vain. The crowds stood and cheered to show support.

Fall 2003: As we continued to have weekly and monthly meetings, the families grew closer and closer. The St. George Boulevard McDonalds treated us to dinner. Stephanie Teeple started a committee for a Hero's Welcome Home and to fund Christmas activities. Most of the families came to the annual Governor's Day. We had a fund raising activity and participated in all the day's events. Debbie Craner, Deborah

*Fund raiser at Family Day*

Larsen, Chelene Helco, Bridgette Allen, Stephanie Teeple, Monica Hill, and Marianne Davis held a board and planned the Halloween party. They assembled Christmas boxes for deployed soldiers of Logan. The non-deployed soldiers of the 141st MI Battalion wanted to send gifts to those deployed at Christmas. Each soldier brought in a lunch bag size package filled with small gifts for those deployed. However, we had more soldiers deployed than at home. Suzanne Sproul contacted Bingham High School. They and two Eagle Scout projects provided over 1,000 bags (many more than those needed). We were able to forward the additional bags to 19th SFG soldiers deployed to Afghanistan just in time for Christmas.

Winter 2004: The 141st MI Battalion Family Readiness Group placed a tree in the 2003 Festival of Trees. Tiffani Price and Annette Bolton thought it would be a great way to give back some of the support they have received from the community. The group embraced the project and through hard work and donations, the tree was a success. The tree sold at private auction for more than double what they had it priced. Thanks again for all the work and donations from Lara Pyper, Mindy Cassat, Michelle Cornelison, Tiffany Price, Annette Bolton and members of the 141st MI Battalion. Chelene Helco

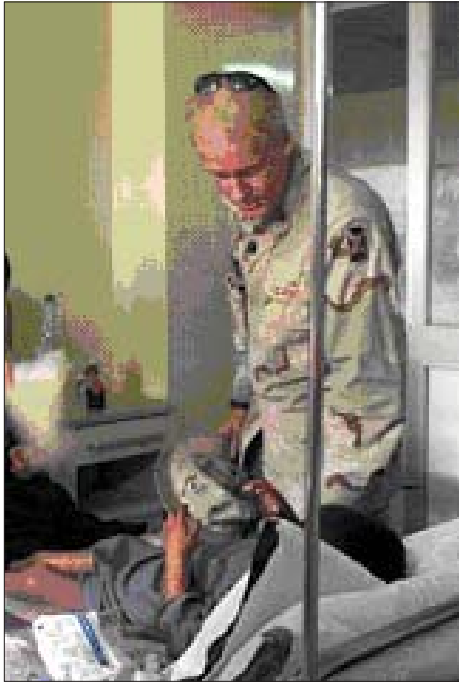
*141st at Festival of Trees*

and her aunt gathered Christmas gifts for many of the wives. Donations and support came from everywhere; the communities really wanted us to know they cared. A few ladies nights out, Valentines Day dinners and potlucks have happened since the New Year.

Well, as the deployment is coming to an end, we will have celebrated three adoptions, eight new babies, many birthdays, graduations, and family weddings without our soldiers. There have been many small personal triumphs such as fixing appliances, repairing the roof, and finally cleaning out that mess in the garage. We would never wish it on anyone, and wouldn't necessarily want to do it again, but looking back, it seems a lot easier than living through it. We made friends; we shared ups and downs, vented frustrations, and became stronger. Like all families, we may not see eye to eye, we may not always approve, but we share something. Our family is closer to being whole once again. Many of our soldiers are coming home.



141st MI Battalion Soldier, Chief Warrant Officer Paul Holton, Conducts Toy Drive for Iraqi Children



Chief Warrant Officer Paul Holton, an interrogator for the 141st MI Bn, visiting an Iraqi child in the Central Teaching Iraqi Hospital for Children in Baghdad, Iraq

Being in a hospital can be a miserable and frightening experience for children. It can be difficult to bring joy to children in these places. But, with the help of a soldier in Iraq and generous Americans in the states, smiles were abundant at a children's hospital in Baghdad. Chief Warrant Officer Paul Holton, an interrogator with the 141st Military Intelligence Battalion, a Utah Army National Guard unit from Salt Lake City, has spearheaded a toy-drive to brighten the lives of misfortunate children in Baghdad. Armed with a busload of toys and his warm demeanor, he visited as many rooms as he could, distributing toys, checking on the

childrens' progress and talking to their mothers.

"I am trying to do something for the Iraqi children," Holton said. "It's rewarding to perhaps change an attitude, change a perspective of a new generation of Iraqis and how they might feel about us and the rest of the world." Dr. Quasem Al-Taey, Director of the Central Teaching Hospital for Children in Baghdad, the hospital Holton visited, said the toys seem to lift the childrens' spirits. "Happiness matters for the children," said Al-Taey. "It gives them the power to fight diseases."

According to Holton, the toy drive started when he asked friends to send things for Iraqi civilians. But that evolved into something more. He said the thing that really kicked things off was when he saw a little girl crying at one of the coalition checkpoints, looking for her mother. He rushed back to his office and grabbed some toys that had been sent to him and gave them to her to console her. "Just from the joy I saw in her face and the smile and the twinkle in her eye, I knew I needed to do this on a larger scale," Holton said.

Chief Warrant Officer Holton, of the 141st MI Bn, became famous for his kindness shown toward Iraqi children



Photos provide by the 372nd MPAD

Chief Warrant Officer Paul Holton, of the 141st MI Battalion, comforts an Iraqi mother whose child is in an Iraqi hospital.

By Cpl. Todd Pruden

372nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

He then asked his friends to send toys, but that was not enough. "I asked people to send more toys so I could do this in hospitals, orphanages, schools and neighborhoods around Iraq," Holton said. Holton decided to use the Internet as a medium to solicit this request. Holton has a Web site where he posts his personal journal of experiences he has had in Iraq. When he posted his request for toys, the response was overwhelming. "My Web site gets between 6,000 and 7,000 hits per day," he said. "It's definitely not my writing style or my interesting journal that's drawing in most of the people," Holton added. The web site, at www.chiefwiggles.blog-city.com, details what type of toys to send, the mailing address and also includes testimonials by Holton and photos of the actual distribution process. As of February 2004 there were 1,635 plus boxes and 1,725 pounds delivered free via FedEx. Three 40-foot cargo containers shipped to Iraq for a total of over \$80,000 donated.

Do Utah National Guard Members Care About Their Community?

By Utah Minuteman Staff

The following story (Project Billy) was sent to The Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Brian Tarbet, by the Commander of the 169th Intelligence Squadron, Lt. Col. William Siddoway, in an e-mail outlining some of their service projects. I think the story is worth sharing.

Thank you to those of you who contributed to the effort to buy school clothes for the needy young man I told you about. We were able to raise \$200 in a short period of time and made quite a difference in this young man's life. Let me give you a brief report so you can see the fruits of your efforts.... A good friend of my wife teaches the behavior unit at a local elementary school (one of two in Weber County). She gets a bunch of hard cases and part of her responsibility is, in conjunction with a number of other professionals of various disciplines, determine whether these kids can be mainstreamed back into the regular school system for Jr. High and High School or if they need to be sent to some other more structured environment. Not a fun job.

Late last year, a young man (we'll call him Billy to protect his privacy) showed up in her class. Billy should have been in the fifth grade. However, none of the regular teachers could handle him. He was belligerent and disruptive. He threatened to kill or do bodily harm to anyone who tried to approach him, even to help him. He couldn't even read at a first grade level. He really needed some help. He found in this classroom an environment that he felt secure in and he started opening up. He is now reading at better than the third grade level and making some

very rapid progress across the board, both academically and behaviorally. Here is a little bit of the stuff that Billy has had to deal with. His dad is an alcoholic and his mom is now disabled because his dad beat her up. She left and took the kids, divorced him and has been on the run from him for years because he has threatened to further harm her and the kids (Billy has an older brother and a sister who is currently serving time in juvenile detention). Billy's mom finally got tired of running, moved in with her parents and got a restraining order, which has provided a little stability in Billy's life. There is not much in the way of financial resources however. Billy typically wore the same tattered clothes to school every day and was beginning to get teased by other kids.

Your donations allowed us to purchase four pairs of jeans, two pairs of sweat pants, eight shirts, socks, underwear, t-shirts and shoes. We got all of that done for \$150 and left the other \$50 with the teacher to be able to cover any emerging needs. She has promised to give us full accountability for how she spends that money. Billy came to school last week with new clothes that fit him for the first time. He was beaming. He even had to take off his new shoes so that he could show his teacher that he was wearing the new socks we got for him. You definitely made a difference in this young man's life, and he and his mother want you to know how grateful they are. You made this possible. I think we should find more of this kind of thing to do.... what do you all think???



First Soldiers Return From Operation Iraqi Freedom

Story and Photos By Spc. Scott Faddis
128th MPAD, UTNG

Twenty-one soldiers from the 141st Military Intelligence Battalion returned to Utah on Tuesday, January 27. The returning soldiers are the first group of soldiers to return home from being part of Operation Iraqi Freedom 1.

"They were all over the country working for every major command in the county," said Maj. Brent Baxter from the 300th MI Battalion.

One of the twenty-one is Sgt. Aaron Townsend. Townsend is a police officer in St. George as a civilian. He

commented on the differences between Iraqi and Utah police officers. "Their job over there as Iraqi police officers is tough. They are afraid to go out on patrol. They are walking targets. I feel safer walking patrol by myself than they feel with four or five in a truck. They are terrified."

Townsend works counter intelligence

and is also a French Linguist. His job during Operation Iraqi Freedom was to gather intelligence and information from the local population. The information they were given ranged from people wanting to seriously help the operation to neighbors tattling on each other as personal grudges.

"One of our toughest jobs was to read through all of the crap to find out what the truth is, and whether it is worth acting on," said Townsend. He worked in southern Iraq during the beginning phases of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Later in the year, he moved to central Iraq, near the Baghdad International Airport.

Townsend felt fortunate that most of the areas he was located in were pretty calm throughout the operation. "I slept most nights," he said. "Most nights."

Townsend will get to finally see his wife and family after spending the night at Camp Williams as part of the out-processing procedure. He was able to fly to St. George on Thursday, January 29th.



Stephanie Teeples (left) and Marianne Davis (right) hold up a welcome sign as they wait with the families and media for the first group of soldiers to come off the plane.



Steven Calder holding balloons while waiting for his dad, Capt. Steven Calder, to arrive at the airport gate



Sgt. Aaron Townsend leaving SLC Airport. He will have to wait until Wednesday before being reunited with his family in St. George.

The 23rd Army Band Continues to Represent the Utah National Guard in the Communities of Utah

By Staff Sgt. Bryce Bird, 23rd Army Band

The 23rd Army Band has just completed another fall and winter season providing music and patriotism through music to the citizens of Utah from Logan to St. George.

The highlights began in November with the Inauguration of Governor Olene S. Walker when the 23rd Army Band provided the music for the ceremony at the State Capitol.

Following the Inauguration the Jazz Band kicked off the concerts by performing in what will likely be an annual event at the Military Ball sponsored by the Utah State University ROTC. Although the Logan air was crisp outside, the Jazz Band warmed things up inside by providing just the right music to suit anyone's taste, from rock to polka, country swing to "In the Mood" and everything in between.

Moving to more solemn occasions, the 23rd Army Band performed concerts honoring Utah's veterans. The first was the 48th annual Veterans' Day Concert where the band was joined by the combined voices of the Granite School



Photos provided by the 23rd Army Band

The 23rd Army Band performing with the 82nd Airborne Division's All-American Chorus at the Veterans' Day Concert

District choirs at the Huntsman Center on the campus of the University of Utah. As an added feature to the evening's concert, the soldiers of the 82nd Airborne Division's All-American Chorus from Ft. Bragg, North Carolina, provided an inspiring performance of the armed service hymns. In addition to the audience in attendance at the concert, the evening's events were shared by audiences throughout the world thanks to a live broadcast aired on the Armed Forces television network and aired locally on both KUED and KBYU television stations. The following evening the band returned to Logan to perform a Veterans' Day Concert accompanied by the choirs of Sky View and Mountain Crest high schools.

In December, the band performed for a capacity audience at the annual Rotary Concert on the campus of Dixie State College. The concert featured a mix of patriotic music and music of the

season when the audience joined in with a sing-along of favorite Christmas songs. The following day the band supported the community by leading the Rotary Bowl Parade down the streets of St. George. Following the parade the band was invited to perform the National Anthem on the field at the Rotary Bowl at the beginning of the Jr. College National Championship game. In the evening the band completed an eventful and rewarding day by performing a patriotic concert at Pine View High School.

Watch for concerts in your area. Following travel to Heidelberg, Germany, for active duty training in March, the band will continue to perform concerts through the spring and summer at parks and parades throughout the state. Bring your family and tap your toes with the band at an enjoyable evening of patriotic music.



The 23rd Army Band performing at Governor Olene Walker's inauguration at the Utah State Capitol Building

The Utah National Guard Enters a New Era of Security

By Dennis Kennedy



Photo provided by Security Office

UTNG Security Officers Tami Petersen and Kim Smith train in handcuffing techniques

"Stop!" I said "STOP" shouted the officer. The suspect resisted. Three baton blows later he was on the ground being handcuffed like a pretzel. This time it was only training. Next time may be the real thing. Utah National Guard Security Officers began a new era in 2003 with a revamped training program. In November 2003 a full-time training officer was brought on board to implement the new program. Dennis Kennedy is the new training officer for the Utah Guard Security Force. He is a 25-year veteran of law enforcement and the military. He is a nationally certified instructor in firearms, defensive tactics, pressure points and close quarters defense.

According to Glen Bailess, Security Manger for the Security Department, "We are going to a different level, a higher standard. Knowing what to do and when to do it are important in any organization. In our department, they are critical."

Current levels of threat condition and terror alerts demand a high level of

diligence in force protection. The Security Department recognized this and began an on-going program that will help keep security officers on the cutting edge. Since the new program began, officers have received training in: The DoD Anti Terror Course, 9-mm pistol re-qualification, Red Cross CPR and AED certification, handcuffing tactics, electronic explosive detection, and expandable baton certification.

In 2004, the Department is going to "pump up the volume" so to speak with an even more intense schedule of training for all officers. Training will continue to focus on force protection as well as service to Utah National Guard personnel. Well, maybe except for writing traffic tickets at Camp Williams! Officers will train in low light tactics, fire and life safety, trauma care, explosives detection, and search techniques.

With the emphatic support of Lt. Col. Bart D. Berry and the Military Support Office, the number of security department personnel and the budget has expanded. Now at 42 personnel, the department expects to grow to approximately 50 full and part time officers in 2004. The training program



Photo provided by Security Office

UTNG Security Officers train in low light search techniques



Photo provided by Security Office

UTARNG Security Officers protect Camp Williams, Draper, and the AASF flight facility

is fast becoming the hallmark of the department. Naturally, most of the officers enjoy the training, especially the hands on topics such as baton training and handcuffing skills. All officers now receive certificates of training for each block of instruction completed. We all know how important that is for wall displays, as well as for record documentation.

Master Sergeant Turner, of the Military Support Office, recently said "It is important to have a well trained and well led security force. It's natural for officers to react according to their training in handling situations properly."

In December, the security office moved into Building 802 at Camp Williams. That move included the refurbishing of the old billeting office with a new inter-active training room. "Having the security manger, training officer and scheduler together in the same building make a big difference in the continuity of management. We have the equipment, we have a new training room, and a new trainer officer. I think 2004 is going to be a banner year for our department," said Glen Bailess.

UTNG Security Officer Ivan Madsen Wins Security Department “Top Gun Award”

By Dennis Kennedy, Security Department



Photos provided by Security Department

Ivan Madsen of the UTNG Security Department bested 47 security officers to win the 2004 TOP GUN AWARD, from Supervisor Glen Bailess, for pistol marksmanship within the security department.

Ivan Madsen and Officer Mike Hutchings both fired a perfect score of 250 points in the annual pistol qualification. A man to man shoot-off was held between Madsen and Hutchings shooting a supine course fire. Madsen was the hands down winner. He will hold the honor for one year and compete later this year against other top shooters within the department.



Utah Sends Aid After Moroccan Earthquake

By Spc. Scott Faddis, 128th MPAD

After a 6.5-magnitude earthquake rocked Northeastern Morocco, Tuesday February 24, 2004, the Utah National Guard (UTNG) worked as quickly as possible to lend a helping hand.

The earthquake killed over 560 people and destroyed most of the small villages in Northeastern Morocco. Most of the deaths occurred in the rural areas of Al Hoceima. The city is made up mostly of mud huts that collapsed when the earthquake hit, smothering those inside.

The UTNG recently established a partnership with Morocco as part of the State Partnership Program. The program is designed to link National Guard states with partner countries for the purpose of fostering mutual interests and establishing long-term relationships



Antonio Carabante, a member of the Spanish Red Cross was at the airport ready to help unload the supplies and then rush them to Al Hocein.



After landing in Morocco the plane was unloaded by the flight crew and soldiers from the Moroccan Military.

across all levels of society. Members of the Utah National Guard made their initial visit to Morocco in December 2003 and have invited Moroccan Military officials to visit Utah later this summer.

Because of the 151st Air Refueling Wing capabilities and the relationship Utah has recently established with Morocco, the UTNG was in a unique position to be able to quickly send aid.

After hearing of the earthquake, Lt. Col. Brad Blackner, the Director of Civil and Military Relations and State Partnership Program Coordinator, sent an e-mail to the U.S. Embassy in Morocco expressing the Utah National Guard's condolences and concern for the people of Morocco.

Blackner told the Embassy, "If we can do anything to help, don't hesitate to ask." Initially the response from the embassy was, thank you, but, no outside assistance has being requested by the Moroccan government at this time.

That changed when the Moroccan government sent out a call for help with the disaster.

Maj. Gen. Brian Tarbet gave the go ahead. "Do what you can, as long as it's legal," he said. With the general's blessing, Blackner contacted the American Red Cross for a list of items needed in Morocco.

Blackner immediately called Garry Flake from the office of Humanitarian Assistance at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Flake and the LDS church donated an airplane full of medical supplies, personal hygiene kits, blankets and tarpaulins.

"The church tries to send aid to every disaster. Having the opportunity to work with the National Guard made everything come together," said Flake.

The LDS church donated 3,430 hygiene kits that consisted of two combs, four toothbrushes, one toothpaste, two bars of soap and two hand towels. They also donated more

US Army photo by 2nd Lt. Wenke Tate

US Army photo by 2nd Lt. Wenke Tate

than 3,000 pounds of first aid supplies, 7,200 lbs. of wool blankets and 850 lbs. of tarps. The total value of everything was about \$100,000, according to Flake.

"We would have liked to donate more, but that was all the plane could carry," said Flake.

With planning in process in Utah, officials half way around the world at the U.S. Embassy in Morocco and European Command in Stuttgart, Germany, were greasing the skids to help to pull off a highly unlikely mission.

It took 72 hours of on-again, off-again phone calls and e-mails, but, finally at 2 a.m. Friday morning the phone call came from Stuttgart saying that the mission was finally supported and approved at all levels and the UTNG could proceed with delivering the cargo to the Moroccan people. The Utah Air National Guard flight crew and

warehousemen from the church were on stand-by awaiting final approval.

Blackner, Lt. Col. Paul Reutlinger, 2nd Lt. Wencke Tate and the eight-member crew boarded the KC 135 Stratotanker and took off for Nador, Morocco. After a short stopover in Bangor, Maine, for refueling, the airplane full of humanitarian assistance was on its way to Morocco.

Sixteen hours after leaving Salt Lake City, the KC-135 landed at Nador and was met by officials from the U.S. Embassy, Red Cross, Red Crescent, Moroccan Military and curious onlookers. Trucks were standing by ready to rush the much needed supplies to Al Hoceima. Moroccan soldiers worked alongside the Utah National Guard members to unload the plane by hand.

The International Red Cross was in Nador to receive the medical supplies and sanitation kits. Antonio

Carabante, a member of the Spanish Red Cross, met the airplane and then accompanied Lt. Cmdr. Michael Swartze from the Embassy with the delivery. "People have lost everything and what we're bringing to them means the world to them," said Carabante.



US Army photo by 2nd Lt. Wencke Tate

Lt. Col. Brad Blackner helps unload some of the 3,430 hygiene kits that will be given to the victims of the earthquake.



US Army photo by 2nd Lt. Wencke Tate

Everyone involved with unloading the supplies when they reached Morocco. The supplies were unloaded by members of the Moroccan Military, workers at the U.S. Embassy, Lt. Col. Blackner, 2nd Lt. Wencke Tate and the air crew: Maj. John Hamilton, Maj. Rachelle Harris, 1st Lt. Dylan Wilde, Master Sgt. John Salazar, Tech. Sgt. John Avilla, Tech. Sgt. Eric Hill, Tech. Sgt. Larry Phillips, Senior Airman Jamie Ridgeway and Lt. Col. Paul Reutlinger.

"It is difficult to acknowledge all who helped make this mission a success, but there are a few who were critical in helping coordinate everything that required in this very difficult task. From our public affairs Spc. Scott Faddis to Col. Kel Finley, Operations Commander of the 151st Air Refueling Wing, the crew of the KC-135. I would also like to thank Garry Flake and the LDS church for their donations, as well as NGB-IA who supported the event from beginning. Finally, to Taffy Town for donating a case of salt water taffy to give to the children of Morocco," said Lt. Col. Brad Blackner.

Utah Dignitary Visits Troops at Fort Carson

By Spc. Scott Faddis, 128th MPAD

On January 13th, Utah's Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army (CASA) visited the troops, as they were preparing to leave for Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. He visited the troops in Fort Carson, Colorado, with Maj. Gen. Brian Tarbet and his staff.

Utah's CASA is John S. Edwards. Edwards was appointed in May 2003. As a civilian aide, Edwards is an adviser and an advocate for Army issues. Civilian aides explain Army programs, positions, and problems to local, state and national leaders through correspondence and meetings. They serve at the discretion of the Secretary of Army and are afforded the protocol of a three-star flag officer.

The trip was short because of fog delays leaving Salt Lake, and they had to leave early because of fog concerns returning to Salt Lake. The two units that Edwards visited were the 115th Engineer Group and the 1/211th Aviation Battalion. The agenda included briefings on the training the units were receiving, a meeting with the base commander, and meeting with the troops.



Edwards eating with soldiers of the 1/211th Aviation Battalion.

Edwards was reassured by the positive attitudes of the soldiers as they were preparing to leave. One soldier told Edwards that his "personal goal was to see every country in the world. I'm just starting with one of the tough ones."

One of Edwards' duties as CASA is to report information to the Secretary of Army. Edwards will report about the problem of the lack of body armor which means troops don't have an opportunity to train with it before arriving in Iraq. "The newer body armor has ceramic inserts that make it bulky and

difficult to move in," said Edwards. "Also, certain soldiers, such as Military Intelligence troops, don't have the proper body armor for the conditions in which they are operating." A story by Vernon Loeb and Theola Labbé about the body armor and its availability problems is at www.msnbc.com/news/1000971.asp?cp1=1.

Edwards was pleased to see that the training was geared towards exact environments. "The Engineers were training for the specific areas in which they will be operating," said Edwards.

Edwards was also pleased to see that the focus in Fort Carson was not only on the soldiers as they leave, but also on returning soldiers. "They were interested in people who are returning. There was interest in both their medical and mental well being. They try to make sure that help is there," said Edwards. He also noted that the Utah National Guard seems to be at the vanguard of dealing with these concerns.

"I was glad that I made the trip. It was very beneficial," said Edwards.



Edwards with members of the Utah Army National Guard

US Army Photo by SFC Greg Cullis

US Army Photo by SFC Greg Cullis

109th ACS Family Support “A Crafty Affair”

By Tech. Sgt Rebecca Q. Bissell

While many members of the 109th ACS are deployed, their families are being “crafty” in supporting their loved ones. On January 7, several family members came together at the dining facility to not only enjoy a delicious sloppy joe dinner, but also to make Valentine cookies and Valentine cards for the troops.

While the 109th ACS children enjoyed getting dirty with frosting, their mothers had a fun evening of visiting, cutting, and pasting.

Family members decided their creativity had not yet been fully tested and again gathered for a fun afternoon at Roberts Restaurant in the International Center on January 17, to make ornaments. Mrs. Verlinda Roberts, owner of the restaurant, is the mother of one of the deployed troops, Senior Airman

members.

Family members have not been the only participants in supporting 109th ACS troops. Hunter High School’s, Senior Class Officers, Bryan Maples, Stuart Feddersen, and Scott Hill organized a teddy bear and journal give away for the children and grandchildren who are apart from their loved ones. Each child received a teddy bear as well as a journal in which they can record their daily activities. Lt. Col. Liegel, acting commander for the 109th ACS, also received a teddy bear as a gift to the unit. Hunter High School’s Humanities Class, under the direction of Mrs. Caren Beeman, mother of deployed troop, Senior Airman Michael Beeman, has also sent packages and letters to the deployed troops.

Teddy bears haven’t been the only thought from a local school. Ms. Spencer’s 2nd grade class at Wasatch Elementary made darling valentines, complete with small goodies for each of the deployed members. Senior Master Sgt. Pamela Hamburg spent some time with the class while picking up the valentines and was thrilled at the excitement of the children who could share their support. Another 2nd grade class, this one at Jordan Elementary, with teacher, Mrs. Catherine Spuck, have been further developing their writing



Photo by 109th ACS Family Support

Ms. Spencer’s class with Valentine Day cards for members of the 109th ACS. Senior Master Sgt. Pamela Hamburg presented the class with a certificate along with the unit’s coin.

skills through sending letters and cards to deployed members over the last couple of months.

The 109th ACS deployed members are enjoying all of the goodies and attention, so family support decided to give as much attention to their spouses and significant others at home. Rather than receiving homemade cookies and cards, the women received a “pampering day.”



Photo by 109th ACS Family Support

Senior Master Sgt. Chuck Denovellis’ grand daughters make Valentine cookies

Lance Roberts. Verlinda provided root beer floats, as a cool refreshment as well as gathered most of the ornament making materials.

The materials were donated by “Zims Craft Store” and “All My Memories.” As you enter her café, you will find a patriotic tree with ornaments featuring each of the deployed 109th ACS



Photo by 109th ACS Family Support

Megan making a Valentine Day card for her father, Master Sgt. Sheen Driggs

Long Distance Family Meeting

*Story and Photos by Spc. Scott Faddis,
128th MPAD, UTARNG*

Technology has brought the mobilized soldier closer to home. Never before have families been able to keep in contact with the soldiers at war. With the use of satellite phones and the Internet, soldiers can be a little closer to their families.

One of the newest ways that soldiers can talk to their families is through video teleconferencing (VTC). The use of VTC allows families not only to talk to their families, but to also see them at the same time. The VTC brings a closeness that is impossible to match with the telephone and e-mail.

Amy Bowden brought her three kids



Hayden Bowden is showing his dad how big his muscles have grown. Mady, his older sister, is trying not to laugh.



The Bowden family talks to Staff Sgt. Curt Bowden, who is in Iraq, using the video teleconferencing system.

to have a VTC with their dad. Her kids Mady, 8, Hayden, 7, and Gaby, 1 1/2, are all excited to talk to and see their dad. Bowden explained why the VTC is important to her and her family. "It will be good for the kids to be able to see their dad," said Bowden. "When he is able to call home he usually calls in the afternoon, and they are at school, so they do not get to talk to him very often."

Staff Sgt. Curt Bowden is a member

of the 1457th Engineers Battalion currently deployed as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. His youngest daughter, Gaby, was only six months old when he left. He has seen pictures, but the VTC will be the best opportunity for him to see how much she has changed in the months that he has been away.

"It's been hard, but it has not been really hard. I've gotten a lot of support from family and friends," said Amy Bowden.



Amy Bowden shows Gaby the TV screen that has her dad, Staff Sgt. Curt Bowen on it, as Hayden and Mady talk to their dad.

Special Delivery in Time for Christmas

By Maj. Scott Lythgoe

The 151st Air Refueling Wing (ARW) made a Christmas air delivery for the Montana National Guard. At the request of the Montana TAG, and a whole lot of families, Major General Tarbet directed the 151st ARW to fly two KC-135s to Ft. Carson, Colorado, pick-up approximately 65 members of the Montana National Guard and deliver them home to their families for Christmas.

The members of the Montana National Guard had been activated and were preparing to deploy to Iraq. They were at Fort Carson, Colorado, for training prior to deploying in December.

Tarbet was at a commander's conference when he learned of the Montana guardsmen's plight. He started the ball rolling and the 151st responded by providing last minute maintenance personnel and air crews who volunteered to make the mission happen.

On December 23, tankers flew from SLC to Fort Carson to pick-up the deployed guardsmen and delivered them to Helena, Montana. On December 27, tankers flew to Helena and returned the guardsmen to Fort Carson. Col. Larry Johnson, 151st ARW Commander, commented that the unit had no trouble finding volunteers to help these servicemen get home for the holidays.

Morgan Elementary School Honors Servicemen

By Lt. Col. David Thomas

The elementary school students at Morgan Elementary School invited the Utah Air National Guard to present a program on what the Guard is doing in Iraq on February 2.

In return the students presented a program to honor the Guard and all servicemen serving their country. The tribute included recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and a song medley which included all of the official service songs. Even more impressively, they sang them without relying on music.

The program was arranged by Mrs. Linda Gines, whose husband Senior Master Sgt. Max Gines is currently serving in Iraq as a member of the 109th Air Control Squadron. She also has two sons who serve in the Air Guard.

Tech. Sgt. Jon Castleton, who recently returned from Iraq, told the students what it was like to serve there, and showed them pictures of the area in which he served. After the presentation he answered their questions.



Photo By Tech. Sgt. Brad Leiter

Tech. Sgt. Castleton surrounded by the students



Photo By Tech. Sgt. Brad Leiter



Photo By Tech. Sgt. Brad Leiter

Tech. Sgt. Castleton lets a student try on a flak jacket and helmet.

SUU ROTC Bids Farwell to Soldier, Mentor and Leader - Command Sgt. Maj. Brent Blackner

By 1st Lt. Robert R. Warden



CSM Brent Blackner teaching SUU ROTC Cadets to Rappel

The Utah National Guard bids a fond farewell to former State Command Sergeant Major Brent Blackner as he finishes a most dignified and rewarding career at Southern Utah University. He will be missed. At the end of this spring semester he retires after thirty-five years of service in a variety of positions for the Utah Army National Guard.

Born in Cedar City on January 12, 1952, Brent graduated from Cedar High School and attended Southern Utah State College. Joining the Utah Army National Guard in 1970 and a

full time employee since 1975, Blackner has served an impressive career in the Guard. He has been Operations Sergeant for Plans, Operations and Training; Operations Sergeant, I Corps Artillery; Battalion Special Weapons NCO for 2nd Battalion 222nd Field Artillery; First Sergeant, Battalion Supply Sergeant, Battalion Career Counselor, and Recruiting and Retention NCO. He has excelled to become an inspiration to all soldiers who knew him.

During his career in the Guard and working with the university, Blackner worked side by side with the retired Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. James Miller, overseeing enlisted matters for the Utah Army National Guard. He carried out policies and standards on the performance, training, appearance and conduct of enlisted personnel. The accomplished Blackner has strove to meet any and all standards placed before him and has been a driving force for the ROTC program within Southern Utah University. He helped build a strong foundation so that the program will continue to be successful. His dedication to the Army values has been a valuable example for the Cadets and others to follow.

Of the many positions in which Blackner has served, he enjoyed most the ones in which he was able to work more closely with the individual soldier. He said, "It's more rewarding to actually see that what you are doing is making a difference. Working in the higher level jobs, you don't always get to see the direct results of your work."

The results of his work can be seen throughout the Utah National Guard and at Southern Utah University Army ROTC. During his three years at Southern Utah University he had direct contact with over 250 cadets. Many of these cadets joined the Utah Army National Guard and later returned to continue with ROTC. He oversaw 24 cadets receive their commissions and has counseled numerous cadets on matters from personal issues to career paths in the military.

Blackner will be missed for his leadership, his friendship, and his love for his country. He plans on doing more fishing with his extra time. He also has chores to do around his farm in Beaver, Utah. Sergeant Major Blackner will be recognized at a BBQ social in his honor at 2:00 p.m. April 29, on the campus of Southern Utah University. All organizations and acquaintances are welcome to attend and present gifts or tokens of appreciation and wish him the best in his retirement. Any questions regarding the social please call Maj. Brent Anderson at 435-865-8664.



CSM Blackner teaching SUU ROTC Cadets on Mountain

USU ROTC Meets the Challenge

By Capt. Reece Roberts

“What most call hell, we call home” was the motto of ten Utah State University (USU) cadets, who went to Monterey, Calif. to participate in the annual Ranger Challenge competition from Nov 14-15, 2003. Twenty-two western universities participated in the event. This is USU’s second year attending, since reopening its doors in 2001.

The USU team was lead by Cadet Capt. Justin Card. Card is a veteran to the Challenge and was accompanied by fellow veteran, Latimer Smith, and newcomers, Blake Bingham, Stan Bell, Mark Bryner, Megan Miles, Matt Kuhni, Josiah Griffin, Ben Scott and Matt Jones. The team trained for months in preparation, putting in more than 20 hours a week. Miles stated, “Preparing for the competition was like a part-time job. I feel really good about the hours that we’ve put into this, both individually and as a team.”

Before the competition, the team was in good spirits and confident. “I think we’re going to win,” Cadet Matthew Jones said. “We’ve got a good rope bridge time, an outstanding team, and our physical training scores are really good across the boards. I don’t see any reason why we shouldn’t win.”

The two day competition consists of six events: the APFT, one-rope bridge, obstacle course, BRM, land navigation and 10-K ruck march. Remembering last year’s problems, Card concentrated on endurance training, and emphasized the importance of mental preparation as well as physical preparation. “Physically, the competition is really hard,” Card said.



Photo provided by the USU ROTC

Members of the Utah State University ROTC Ranger Challenge Team that won 1st Place in the Small School Division

“But the biggest thing is that if you’re mentally prepared, you can do it. Really, mentality is the biggest obstacle that we have -- knowing we can do it and keeping our head in the game. If we can do that we’ll do fine.”

At 6:00 a.m., the competition officially began with the APFT with USU averaging an impressive average of 344 points placing them in second in the small school division. After the APFT, the team took first in the one-rope bridge, with a time of 1 minute 24.5 seconds. Utah State University ran one man short through the obstacle course completing it with the second fastest raw score of 6:02. That placed them third in the small school division and fifth overall. BRM left something to be desired with USU coming in 14th overall, but quickly gained another small school third-place finish in Land

Navigation, which consisted of a written test, and a 23-point course test. The team had no penalties and found 16 of the 23 points. The final competition was the 10K ruck march. Lieutenant Colonel Rand Curtis said about the march, “It’s like watching your wife give birth. You know your men are out there in pain and you can’t do anything about it.” Card and his team led the event with a time of 1 hour, 12 minutes and 2 seconds.

At the end of the competition Utah State University had emerged as a force to be reckoned with. They were in the top three in five of the six events. They took home the 1st place trophy for the small school division and 2nd place overall. In the end, the “West Point of the West” came through for their school, by meeting the challenge.

Navajo School gets upgrade with the aid of the ANG

By Airman 1st Class Christiana Elieson

In this day and age of cell phones, internet and running water, it is hard to imagine a place in the United States without these things; however, in the remote town of Teec Nos Pos, Arizona, it is daily life.

The T'iis Nazbas Community School is located on a Navajo reservation in the four corners region. Many of the people there neither have electricity nor running water. So for the community school of about 300, receiving computers three years ago was a huge leap ahead.

At the same time they had the opportunity to take an even larger step into the 21st Century -- they acquired access to the internet. A whole new world to explore, where few



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Brad Leiter

Staff Sgt. Crystal Carsey searches for spare parts in the "bone yard" room at the T'iis Nazbas Community School in Teec Nos Pos, Arizona.

tribal council this makes them eligible to receive excess government computers.

Four years ago Mr. Pat Baxtrum, the school's technology coordinator, put in a request for outdated computers and since then, the school has received hundreds of outdated government computers. Unfortunately, due to the technology being antiquated, parts have to be salvaged from one computer to another to make them work properly.

In addition to being the school's only technology coordinator, Mr. Baxtrum is also the school's shop



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Brad Leiter

Tech. Sgt. Dave Fernelius verifies connections for the newly installed phones.

ever leave their reservation, was opened to the school children by a few members of the Utah Air National Guard.

Many children travel 50 – 60 miles on a Monday and live in dormitories for the week, just so they can receive schooling in everything from mathematics to the Navajo language.

In the Utah Air National Guard, members get on a waiting list just to go on this short TDY. It is a time filled with 12-hour work days and no real personal time; however, each person who participated, loves going because it is a humbling experience and helps each to realize how much he really has.

The school is a part of the Bureau of Indian Affairs which is jointly administered by the federal government and the

Continued on next page



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Brad Leiter

Staff Sgts. Glen Carrington and Michelle Thompson eat lunch with the students.

Continued from previous page



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Brad Leiter

teacher and LAN administrator. This makes it much more difficult to get the computers up and running in a timely manner. During the last trip to Tec Nos Pos, airmen assisted Mr. Baxtrum in getting 130 computers working; something one man definitely could not do in one week.

They were also able to put in a phone system so each building of the school could call the office instead of leaving the classroom to do necessary business.

While the airmen were there they had some very valuable and precious time to share in the Navajo culture and to express their thoughts and feelings regarding the military and the world outside of the reservation. The children enjoyed seeing a culture and people that is not often seen in their world, and in return, they presented their culture and their dances.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Brad Leiter

Tech. Sgt. Dean Peterson eats lunch with one of the young men from the school.

Also during the deployment, the airmen standardized programs on the computers, networked them, and gave the children much improved access to the world.

Members who went there were: Chief Master Sgt. Steve Mullin; Senior Master Sgt. Ric Hodge; Master Sgt. Sol David; Tech. Sgts. Lance Loveland, Dean Peterson, Dave Fernelius and William Apple; Staff Sgts. Brad Leiter, Michelle Thompson and Glen Carrington; Senior Airman Crystal Carsey; and Lt. Col. David Thomas.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Brad Leiter

Students rush around their teacher as they head to the lunch room.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Brad Leiter

Children give high fives to members of the Utah Air National Guard to thank them for their work. This is the sixth trip the ANG has made to the school in the last four years.

F-86 Gets New Coat of Paint

By Master Sgt. Donald Anderson

In front of the headquarters building of the Utah National Guard in Draper, there are static displays representing the Army and Air National Guard. Anyone driving southbound on I-15 can see them.

The ANG is represented by an F-86 mounted on a steel pole high above the ground. It is tilted to simulate flight.

The F-86 is one of the first jet aircraft flown during combat. It flew its first combat sorties during the Korean War. The ANG flew the F-86, in three different model designations, through 1954 to 1961 under the 191st Fighter Group (FG). One of the 191st FG's pilots became the first ANG jet fighter "Ace" with seven confirmed kills in the F-86. Many Utah ANG pilots were

activated during that conflict prior to the unit receiving the F-86 as its assigned aircraft.

The static display model in front of state headquarters is to be maintained in good condition while on display, as it is a "live aircraft" and represents the U.S. Air Force and the ANG.

A check of the records and a ground inspection revealed that it was time to repaint the aircraft. The existing paint was fading and it had a few areas needing some patching since the last time it was painted. A crew from the 151st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron's fabrication section was tasked to make the necessary repairs and repaint the aircraft.

Arrangements were made to work on the aircraft at night to avoid traffic

and the heat of the day.

Members from the fabrication section moved equipment to the site, ordered the paint, and made the new decals used on the project. A crew of three to four worked on the plane from a mobile lift positioned on the asphalt where the jet is located.

Grounds maintenance personnel helped coordinate the sprinklers and the night watchmen aided workers with building access. The fabrication section paint crew consisted of Master Sgt. Don Anderson, Senior Airman Paul Cordner and Katie Daurelle with assistance from section supervisor, Senior Master Sgt. Doug Parry.

This paint job preserves the jet for another five to ten years, thus making this display a fitting tribute to those airmen who have served.



F-86 on static display outside of the Utah National Guard Headquarters in Draper, Utah

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Burke Baker

Festival of Trees 2003



Photo by Technical Sergeant Brad Leiter

Airman 1st Class Jason Prince ran the audio for the Festival of Trees 2003 at the Southtown Exposition Center in Sandy, Utah, on December 6, 2003. The Utah Air National Guard has provided support for the event for a number of years.

(Right) Tech. Sgt. Dean Peterson and Tech. Sgt. Burke Baker run the audio for the Festival of Trees 2003 at the Southtown Exposition Center.



Photo by Technical Sergeant Brad Leiter

Re-enlistment on the go



Photo by 109th ACS

On Dec. 6, Staff Sgt. Jeffrey D. Fleck re-enlisted for another six years, with 109th Air Control Squadron, Utah Air National Guard. An A-10 aircraft at an airfield in Iraq served as a platform for the ceremony. Maj. Joe Cotner did the swearing in while Chief Master Sgt. David Colton holds the American Flag.

Dining with the 'Boss'



Photo by 109th ACS

Senior Airman Ashton McCauley was selected to attend breakfast with Donald Rumsfeld, the Secretary of Defense, on Saturday December 6, in Iraq. McCauley, 109th Air Control Squadron, is currently assigned to the 447th Expeditionary Air Control Squadron.

Burning Wood To Make Art

Story by Spc. Scott Faddis 128th MPAD,
Artwork Photos by Master Sgt. Al Yardley

The Utah National Guard has many people who do exceptional work in their military jobs. All of these people, however, have another side that not as many people see.

Master Sgt. Al Yardley is one of those people. He does an exceptional job in Troop Command Supply, but he also has an artistic side that he has shared with co-workers and friends in the Utah National Guard.

In many offices in the state headquarters are large sheets of plywood that have been transformed from ordinary wood into magnificent works of art. He



This wolf picture has been hanging up at Yardley's home in Lehi. He is planning to hanging it up in Troop Command Supply.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Scott Faddis

Master Sgt. Al Yardley putting the finishing touches on a cowboy picture that he has burned onto a small piece of birch plywood

starts with everyday pieces of birch plywood and then spends many hours of his free time drawing and then burning images onto the wood. Yardley has loaned some of his artwork to people in the Guard to display in their offices.

Yardley has done more than loan his artwork. He donated both his time and money to create a picture of John Wayne that was given to NBA star Karl Malone. The Guard was thanking Malone for his donation of money to buy sports equipment for children, when the 19th Special Forces went to Thailand.

A decade ago, Yardley got started doing wood burning almost by accident. "I did a toy box for my stepson. I felt that if I did something nice it would last for a long time," said Yardley. On the

top of the toy box he burned a picture of some horses. People loved the look of the toy box. "Somebody asked me if I would do one for them, then people kept asking me if I would do one for



This moose picture earned Yardley one of his State Fair Grand Champion award.

them.”

Yardley is not someone that you would immediately think of as an artist. The jump wings and Special Forces tab could cause you to jump to other conclusions. His college art teacher had the same preconceived notions. He told Yardley, “Taking an art class certainly shows one’s ability, or in your case—one’s lack of ability.” Yardley never let that one negative assessment keep him from trying. Since then, Yardley has won a three “Grand Champion” and won two “First Places” at the Utah State Fair.

Yardley has sold some of his pictures over the years, but he does not do it for the money.

“I don’t want to get into the business of making pictures just to make money. I think that it takes away from what you are doing. You can put into what you need if you are doing it just to make money,” said Yardley.

There is a picture of bighorn sheep hanging on the wall behind Master Sgt. John Strong’s desk. “I have turned down \$1,100 for those rocky mountain bighorn sheep,” Yardley said. When asked if he would do another for \$1,100, he shrugged and said, “I don’t have eight months to give to do another



This picture of big horn sheep hangs in Master Sgt. John Strong’s office. Yardley had been offered \$1,100 for this picture but he couldn’t sell it.



This picture of a young Native American girl is one of the few pictures that Yardley has sold. It took almost a year for him to decide that he could sell it.

one.”

When Yardley talks about all the time it takes to create each one of these pictures you can see why he is so attached to them. Yardley said that he has spent hours looking at sheets of plywood. “I will go through a half a pile of plywood before I find a piece that has a good grain that I like,” said Yardley.

After buying the wood the grain decisions are just starting. “For two to three days I will look at the grain and plot it out,” said Yardley. After he has plotted out the picture he starts to draw and layout the animals and landscape. “It takes about three days to layout the animals, so that they look like animals,” explained Yardley. “People are either good at landscapes or animals, but they are not usually good at both.”

Yardley usually gets his inspiration for the animals from postcards or other pictures. He then plans out the landscape that they will fit into. Once he has laid out where all of the elements will go on the wood, he starts the burning process.

The wood is burned with the same simple heated pen shaped tool that the Boy Scouts use. The difference is that few Boy Scouts spend 50-plus hours on a project.

To give some of his pictures a more lifelike feel, Yardley will add color. The color is painted on the wood by using acrylic paints.

Yardley created a picture of a young Native-American girl for the Federal Women’s Conference. The woman that asked him to create the picture fell in love with it and wanted to buy it. “It took me a year to decide that I would sell it. She was so in love with it, and I just could not see not selling it to her,” said Yardley. Selling the picture required Yardley to make an important promise. “I had to promise my wife that I would do another one.”

Yardley’s wife, Ruth, loves his pictures more than anyone else. “My wife is my biggest fan, and she hates to see me sell any of them,” said Yardley.

Education Benefits For Utah Guard Members

Story and photo by Spc. Scott Faddis,
128th MPAD, UTNG

Are you going to college, or have you been thinking about it? There has never been a better time for members of the Utah Guard to go beyond their high school diploma.

In the last year a lot has changed with how the Guard can help military personnel achieve their education goals. In February 2002, the Utah state legislature passed Senate Bill 109 which requires the president of each public school to set aside two and a half percent of the instate waivers he/she authorizes each school year for members of the Guard. Last year that two and a half percent created 155 waivers for Utah Guard soldiers and airmen.

The waivers had a value of approximately \$385,000, according to Master Sgt. John Strong, the education services officer. State waivers are a great improvement, but there are not enough waivers for everyone who will

be going to school next year. Waivers are available to traditional National Guard members who are considered Utah residents, are undergraduate students, and will be attending school full-time for the entire 2004-2005 school year.

An order-of-merit-list will be developed for each school. Applicants will be ranked by institution and by their grade-point average. In May of each year, the State Board of Regents will notify the Utah National Guard on the number of waivers authorized at each college/university. "Once we have these quotas, award letters and school contracts will be sent out to the successful applicants. Applicants should know the results by the third week in June," explained Strong.

There will not be enough state waivers for every student who applies. Any student who does not receive a waiver should apply for Federal Tuition Assistance (FTA). Although a soldier may not receive a waiver, they can still

benefit from the program because there are fewer soldiers competing for the tuition assistance.

More information and an application form for the State Tuition Waiver Program for the 2004-2005 school year will be posted on the Utah Army National Guard Civilian Education web site (www.ut.ngb.army.mil/education2).

FTA is an option for anyone who does not

receive the state waiver or does not qualify for the waiver. FTA is available to National Guard members trying to receive one credential from each of the following levels: 1) Secondary School (High School) Diploma or its equivalency (GED), 2) Certificate (undergraduate, graduate, vocational, technical, licensure), 3) Associate degree, 4) Baccalaureate degree, 5) Master's degree or first professional degree.

Federal Tuition Assistance will pay up to 75 percent of tuition and general fees and soldiers may receive up to \$200 per semester hour. The total amount of FTA each soldier is entitled to receive in FY04 cannot exceed 12 credit hours per semester, or more than \$4,000 per year.

There is more information about the FTA, and the interested may complete an application on the Utah National Guard web site at www.ut.ngb.army.mil/education2.

"This year I have been provided \$285,000 (for the 2003-2004 school year). Hopefully that amount will increase (for next year)," said Strong. "It's first-come first-serve until it is gone. Our first priority is to get all soldiers to at least a baccalaureate degree."

There is a lot of assistance available to those who are trying to further their education. There has never been more money for school available to Utah Guard members than right now. Contact Master Sgt. John Strong at 801-523-4537 or visit the education web site at www.ut.ngb.army.mil/education2.



Spc. Jody Metzger, a student at Salt Lake Community college, studies for a biology test.

Environmental Resources Management Integrated Training Area Management Program

When the public thinks of wild lands and natural areas, they picture the wildlife and undisturbed scenery of a preserve or of a park, but rarely that of a military installation. However, many military installations are undeveloped islands surrounded by cities, protected from public access, and intensely managed to conserve the training environment and training opportunities. The Department of Defense is the second largest government land manager, and it has the same conservation responsibilities as other federal agencies, including the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management.

Conservation does not necessarily mean non use of vacant land, but means the elimination of wasted resources in its use, not only in its current mission but also for the training of future leaders and soldiers. The need for effective environmental management of training lands is great, as installations are being closed through base realignment and closure and increased pressure for access to public lands.

The conservation of the training environment is the goal of ERM and their ten-year-old Integrated Training Area Management program at Camp Williams. It combines four components that work together to integrate environmental and military training perspectives to manage the training lands. They are: 1) Land Condition Trend Analysis, 2) Land Rehabilitation and Maintenance, 3) Training Requirements Integration, and 4) Sustainable Range Awareness. This analysis is the land monitoring system that provides information for site

restoration or for adjustments in training use, including maintaining documentation.

Land monitoring provides scientific data that can be used to target, plan for and monitor the success of revegetation. It can be used to defend the use of the land for training by showing that either training has low impacts or that the Utah National Guard is responding appropriately to impacts. Data is collected annually from the 97 plots on Camp Williams to track the inevitable impacts from military training and other land uses, including grazing, wildfires, and other circumstances.

Land Rehabilitation and Maintenance includes the solutions to environmental problems and preventative actions to limit future damage. For instance, many training areas have had portions reseeded with native, hardy, fire-resistant grasses and other plants over the last ten-years. Graveled combat trails were constructed in Medic Hill, Oak Springs, Ute and West Landing training areas and a bivouac area in Area-51 to facilitate year-round use regardless of the weather.

While these have hopefully been relatively invisible to the soldiers using them, a greater and more visible effort has gone into fire prevention through fire fuels reduction. The most visible of these have been the goats along the Wood Hollow Road and elsewhere. They are herded into target areas where they eat the oak brush and other vegetation, thereby reducing the fuel available for wildfires. Other fuels reduction projects have targeted the margins of the Impact Area and other critical areas.

By Douglas Johnson UTARNG-ERM

Training Requirements Integration is the integration of training land requirements with natural and cultural resources management. The goal is to integrate doctrinally based training with land constraints. The two digging areas implemented by Camp Williams are a prime example. They provide a site for equipment operator training, reduce the need for pre-mission clearance, and limit damage to an already disturbed former agricultural field.

Another goal of ERM is sustainable range awareness. This provides users with a better understanding of how their activities impact the training environment, how to minimize impacts, and use restrictions.

Camp Williams is a valuable resource. It is situated in what biologists classify as a sagebrush steppe and part of the Intermountain Semi-Desert and Desert Province. Based on climate, topography, soils and vegetation, it is very similar to about 2.2 million square miles of temperate desert in central Asia (including parts of Afghanistan) and South America. Utah is similar to 18.3 million square miles of dry domain desert throughout the world. This makes it an ideal training environment for recent conflicts.

It is a scarce resource; it is the only training area the Utah National Guard will have. Future soldiers should receive the training environment in the same or even better condition than the generation before them and with the same or more opportunities. The goal of Environmental Management is the conservation of this training environment.

Additional Help for Utah Guard Members

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You can access Army One Source online at www.armyonesource.com (user id: **army**; password: **onesource**), or by phone, toll-free, from the U.S: 800-464-8107, International: 800-464-81077, International collect: 484-530-5889. Consultants who speak Spanish, simultaneous translation into more than 140 other languages, and TTY/TDD are also available.

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Online: www.armyonesource.com (user id: **army**; password: **onesource**), From the U.S: 800-464-8107, International: 800-464-81077, International collect: 484-530-5889.

Keep reading to see how Army One Source has made a difference in the lives of some soldiers and their families who have used its services.

Real Help. Anytime. Anywhere

Army One Source is always there for you, ready to help in the way that best fits your preferences, your schedule, and your needs. No matter how big or small your concern, or what point you are in life, Army One Source service is dedicated to bringing real help to real people. Here are just a few examples.

Choosing a Summer Camp

"I don't really know where to start," the single father said when he called Army One Source. "I have custody of my two children this summer. I've been browsing through Army One Source Online and I read the articles on planning summer activities. I even found some specific camps that sound interesting in your Camp Locator, but I have questions, and I'd like to know more about some activities my area."

To help him get the answers he needed, an Army One Source consultant asked about the children's ages, their interests and personalities, the family's budget and other relatives who lived nearby. A few days later, the consultant mailed information about local day camp programs, along with tips on what to look for when choosing an overnight camp or a day program.

ARMY
One Source

Caring for Older Relatives

Caring for an aging relative whose needs are changing can be challenging and stressful. For one soldier, Army One Source Online provided much-needed resources. "This site has helped me look into how to cope with my mom, who has been with me for a year now. She has different ailments and I can't see anyone caring for her but myself. The site has also helped me with the stress, which I never realized I had, from dealing with her. Thanks and keep the information coming—it's very useful."

Another user writes "I truly appreciate the elder care resources. I was able to find help for my mom who had a stroke two years ago without health insurance. Within hours of searching your site, I was able to provide physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, and home health aides...I am truly grateful."

Army One Source Online provides a fast, convenient and private way to find the advice, information and resources that you need, whenever you need it.

Plugging a Leaky Roof

"My neighbor has been watching my house while I'm away. He just called to say there is water running down my walls after the recent storm and the roof is leaking!" an soldier exclaimed when she called Army One Source. "What can I do? I have a meeting tomorrow and can't just cancel and come home."

The Army One Source consultant got right to work, and quickly identified several licensed, reputable roofers and contractors not far from the salesperson's home—some with after-hour emergency numbers. He even located an insured, bonded individual who could stay at her house while estimates and repairs were made. Pleased, the soldier arranged for repair work to begin immediately. And the next day, she kept her appointment with the CEO.

Surviving the College Application Process

The high school senior thought he already knew what he wanted—a college where he could major in architectural design. But it had to be in his home state, and he was pretty sure he'd need financial aid. Using Army One Source Online, he and his dad picked some schools on the College Locator and downloaded helpful articles on interviews and visits. Then they called for more advice.

The Army One Source consultant answered their questions about applying for financial aid and sent a guidebook to help the son plan and keep track of the entire applications process. "I was amazed at all the helpful information we received," the father said. "Army One Source was really there for us. Every step of the way."

Getting Control of Debt

The young couple earned a decent income, but they were over their heads in debt. When they finally called the Army One Source program, they owed almost \$50,000.

The Army One Source consultant reviewed the couple's income, expenses, and spending habits. Then, they worked together to establish a plan. The couple contacted their creditors, consolidated their loans, and managed to lower some of their interest charges. At the consultant's suggestion, they cancelled a cell phone, dropped their cable television service, changed long distance carriers, and cut back on dining out. Now the couple is on track to becoming debt free. "We couldn't have done it without you," the soldier told the Army One Source consultant.

Coping with Grief

Few things in life are as painful as the death of a child. When the loss is sudden, it can be even more painful. So when one soldier called Army One Source recently, she was understandably upset. "My nephew was killed in a car accident a few days ago," she began. "I saw your brochure at work; I really need to talk to someone." The caller was tearful, at times angry. "I just can't concentrate on my job anymore. Nothing seems to matter. I can barely make myself get up in the morning and go to work."

Her Army One Source telephone consultant offered reassurance and, following a thorough assessment, provided community resources to mental health professionals. The soldier began working through her grief. In follow-up consultation, she reported feeling much improved. "I am really very appreciative of all your help," she explained. "I've decided to continue in therapy with a counselor recommended by you, and I am finding it very beneficial. And I feel like I can focus and concentrate again. Thank you, Army One Source."

ARMY
One Source

A Day When History Stood Still



Photo provided by Spec. Nunez

Gabriel Wixson is a 9th grade student in Oquirrh Hills Middle School. He is the son of 2nd Lt. Ivan Nunez (HHD 115th Engineer Battalion) and Spec. Julie Nunez (Military Pay Technician in the USP&FO for Utah). Gabriel wrote this poem for a school assignment. His 4th period language arts teacher was very impressed by the in-depth, heart-felt thought not normally displayed by 9th grade students. We were impressed enough to republish the poem in this issue of the Utah Minuteman.

A fateful day.
Terrorists flying an American plane.
A crash that was so loud that it was
felt in the heavens.
A shock wave that swept through the
peoples hearts.
Fathers, brothers, mothers, daughters
lost in the billowing smoke.
A day that heroes were born with
supernatural strength.
Carrying hoses, masks, and yellow
jackets.

Then just as fast as it came, it left.
Many thought it was the end.
The gates that had been locked and
sealed,
As mighty as they were, couldn't
keep the world out,
No matter how hard we tried,
They broke through with the withering
of time.
Then amongst the horror and sadness.
A horn herd throughout the world.
Then a loud creaking sound,
The gates opened and mighty united
hordes were released,
Just like a massive stampede of wild
beasts.
We embarked on a crusade of anger,
sorrow, and repel,

A crusade that even today drains
blood from the United States veins.
Alone or together they will pay for
hitting us at the heart.

Gabriel dedicated this poem to the men and women who died on September 11th and over the last two years. He also dedicated this poem to the men and women serving in the armed services, overseas and on the home front. He says, "You are heroes in your own right, coming to our aid in our desperate need. He also wanted to credit President George Bush for taking this punch and handling it with great skill. Though many do not show it, we are all thankful to all of you and your great sacrifices.

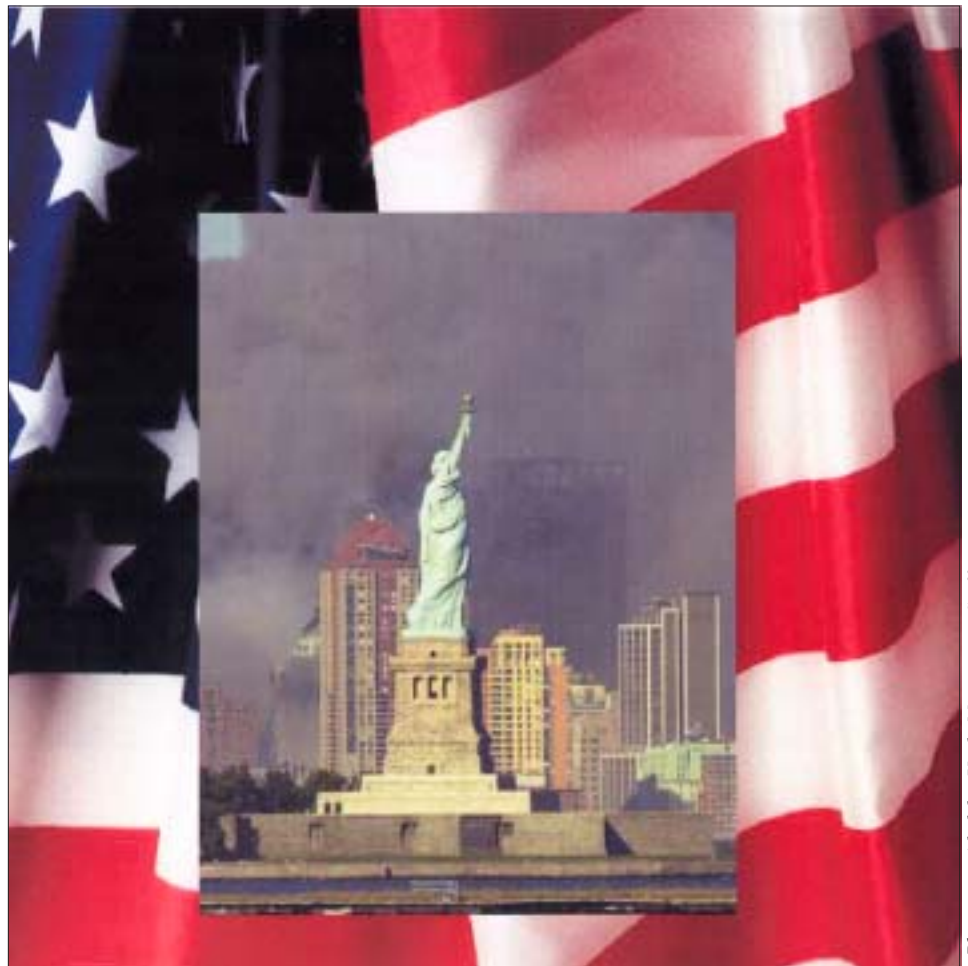


Photo provided by Utah Minuteman Staff

Are you a Dangerous Driver? 10 ways to tell

By the UTARNG Safety Office

AGGRESSIVE DRIVING

- Aggressive tailgating
- Lights flashed at them because the other motorist was annoyed
- Aggressive or rude gestures
- Deliberately obstructed or prevented from moving their vehicle
- Verbal abuse
- Physically assaulted



Bad habits range from road rage to eating while driving. Compare yourself with a focus group of 30 drivers from Boston who have collectively been involved in 84 accidents over the past three years and received 49 speeding tickets, 39 moving violations and 92 parking tickets. Take a look at these questions to find out if you fit the profile:

1. *When you reach a stop sign and no one is coming from another direction, do you roll through instead of stopping?* An overwhelming majority (87%) of the bad drivers say they would.

2. *Do you talk on the cell phone while driving instead of pulling off and stopping to talk?* A total of 77% of bad drivers say they do this either frequently or occasionally.

3. *Do you take your coffee and muffin or other food and drink on the road with you, driving with one hand while using the other to eat?* Some 60% of those in the study say they frequently eat while they're driving.

4. *If you're out shopping in a crowded area and are looking for a parking space, do you become so focused on your search that you lose sight of the cars and pedestrians around you?* More than half of the participants say that when they're trying to find a parking space in a crowded area, they can become so focused that they become oblivious to other drivers and pedestrians.

5. *Do you hate driving behind SUVs or other large vehicles that obstruct your view?* More than 60% of bad drivers say they are frustrated driving behind SUVs because they are wide and tall and block their vision.

6. *Does your driving change when you go into areas with higher police presence?* Nearly all of the participants strongly agree with the statement that they drive more carefully when they know police are in the area. In addition, most participants say they check their rearview mirrors regularly for police cars.

7. *Does listening to music while you drive sometimes leave you oblivious to all but the music?* Some 93% of participants say they listen to the radio while driving, and 73% of them listen to music. Most say listening to the radio often caused them to become distracted and in some cases they say listening to loud music has caused them to be more aggressive on the highway.

8. *Do you find yourself in confrontations on the road, either through verbal arguments or hand gestures, because of either your own driving habits or the habits of others?* While 87% of the bad drivers consider themselves at least somewhat courteous drivers, if not very courteous, at least half also admit making obscene or rude gestures or comments to other drivers, particularly those who cut in front of them on the highway. However, they appreciate a thank-you gesture for letting another driver into their lane, and often give a wave of thanks themselves when they cut into traffic.

9. *Does your "work hard, play hard" lifestyle leave you sleepy behind the wheel at times?* About 50% of those in the study say they have almost fallen asleep while driving and an additional 10% say they have wanted to shut their eyes while driving.

10. *When you're driving with passengers, do you turn around to talk, taking your eyes and mind off the road?* All group members acknowledged that they are distracted when they have passengers in their vehicles, and most say during conversations they'll turn their heads and stop paying attention to the road. This held true especially for drivers with small children.

Provided by the UTARNG Safety Office

The only organization that exists exclusively to "promote the status, welfare and professionalism of the enlisted members of the Utah National Guard."

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Show your professionalism by contacting the association and getting involved in the organization that is taking care of you!

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Lorraine Januzelli, executive Officer of the 128th MPAD, is pinned a Major by her commander Maj. Hank McIntire

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